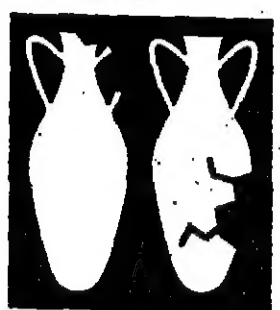


Tomorrow

Secrets of the past
The recent discovery of a rich Egyptian tomb has given fresh encouragement to other academics who are searching sites around the world. They believe that they have only just begun to scratch the surface of the ancient world. What great finds are still to be made?



All change
A new smooth look from a fashion radical
Indoor games
Britain meets the USSR at Cosford

Portfolio

Saturday's £20,000 weekly prize in The Times Portfolio competition was shared by three readers: Mrs Ruth Scarratt, of Purley, Surrey; Mr L P Henshaw, of Weymouth, Dorset; and Mr Ian Wilson, of Hemel Hempstead, Herts. The daily prize of £2,000 was shared by Mr E Leigh-Howard, of Knightsbridge, London SW1, and Mr Neil Howard, of Kelghley, Yorkshire.

Obscenity Bill

Mr Winston Churchill has abandoned his "laundry list" of activities deemed as obscene and not suitable for broadcasting or publication and replaced it with more general guidelines in his Bill designed to extend the scope of the Obscene Publications Act.

Missile offer

President Reagan has proposed removal of intermediate-range nuclear missiles from Europe within three years in a letter to the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, but also wants the scrapping of Soviet weapons aimed at China and Japan.

Militant fight

The leadership of the Labour Party is preparing for confrontation with the Militant Tendency when the party executive considers on Wednesday disciplinary measures against Liverpool members of the group.

Iran appeased

As Iran buried those who died when an airliner was shot down by the Iranian military, the UN Security Council in effect blaming Iraq for the Gulf war.

Prince's plea

The Prince of Wales urged British businessmen to develop closer links between industry and local communities, suggesting they set aside part of their profits for community projects.

Cancer link

Widowhood and other stressful events could predispose some women to breast cancer, a new study says. The extra effort in hiding emotions could weaken their immune system.

Merger talk

Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, is in merger talks with Exco, the financial conglomerate, which could lead to the creation of a £1 billion group.

Guns proposal

New tactics in the use of firearms by the police should be considered, a confidential report to the Home Secretary says.

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£20,000 earners may pay £3bn more in taxes

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

A Labour government will impose an extra £3,000 million in taxes on the richest million taxpayers, Mr Neil Kinnock said yesterday.

An Inland Revenue source said last night that the plan would affect those earning between £20,000 and £25,000 a year and upwards.

The Labour leader also said in an interview on the Tyne Tees Television *Face the Press* programme that he would legislate to make sure that strikers could not be dismissed in pursuit of legitimate industrial action taken after a ballot.

Asked how he planned to finance his investment programme, Mr Kinnock said that the money would come from borrowing, by reducing unemployment and by a reimposition of "the tax liability" escaped in the last six years, to the tune of about £3,000 million a year, by the top 3 or 5 per cent of taxpayers.

Mr Kinnock said: "It is a question of starting to collect the effective level of tax again from those who are very rich in our society—I mean people in the top 3 or 5 per cent as I have said."

The Inland Revenue source

said that in this financial year the top 5 per cent of taxpayers, those on a taxable income of more than £16,200, contributed about £1,800 million on the higher rate bands, which were reduced from a limit of 83 per cent to 60 per cent in the 1979 Budget.

But Mr Kinnock also said that, while he had no intention of raising the standard rate of tax, he would hope to reduce the tax burden on those earning less than £6,500 a year, about seven million people, many of them part-time workers.

He said: "There is a case for scaling down the tax-paying process in such a way as to relieve people on lower incomes. So I'm not saying we don't want to change standard rate, I'm saying we don't want to increase standard rate."

The Labour leader said he did not want to make any promises or sign any cheques at the moment, but if it could be done he would like to introduce discriminatory help for those on less than £6,500 a year.

Mr Kinnock also reaffirmed Labour's plans to "clear the deck" of all Conservative industrial relations legislation,

replacing it with "a framework of positive rights".

He said: "What we'll see constructed in place of an industrial relations system that provokes conflict is one that allocates rights and responsibilities and can safely be put in the hands of reasonable people instead of the ruthless and the self-interested and the irrational, which is the purpose that the Conservative legislation now serves."

That meant that balloting provisions would "in a variety of forms be retained" and Mr Kinnock said: "Insofar as it encourages rank and file involvement in the decision making and the elections of trade unionism, then it's to be accepted."

Asked about the dispute involving News International and Wapping, Mr Kinnock said that a Labour government would ensure "that for the period of a strike you could not terminate people's employment because of that strike, or during that strike."

"It's a system of law which operates with effectiveness elsewhere; there's no reason why it couldn't effectively and justly operate in this country."

Union role in BL takeover

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday revealed that the workforce of Land Rover and of Freight Rover would be involved in management buy-out plans for British Leyland.

The Labour leader said on the Tyne Tees television programme, *Face the Press*: "The management who are putting together the teams seeking the buy-outs want the direct involvement from day one of the trade unions and workers in those plants."

"That was made very clear to me on Friday when I visited the Land Rover and Freight Rover management, for instance."

"I'm not going to quote them directly because I don't want to break any confidences, but... they want, from day one, some facility in which the workers can be involved in that buy-out process."

Ironically, Mr Kinnock has also said that he would oppose any kind of British Leyland

sale, but a buy-out would be the "least worst" option.

With a *Sunday Times* MORI poll showing yesterday that as many as 90 per cent want Land Rover to stay in British hands, while 77 per cent believe that the Government should insist that it remain British, the political pressure against a General Motors takeover is creating formidable difficulties for Mrs Thatcher.

Mr John Biffen, leader of the Commons, said yesterday in an interview on the BBC television programme, *This Week, Next Week*, that the hostility aroused by the proposition created a "considerable problem", but that did not mean the idea was mistaken.

He said: "The Government, very wisely, is not going to be pressured, I believe that it is sound industrial sense for this country to seek international settings for many of its activities. To rule these out on pure grounds that only British ownership is acceptable, in my

mind, is absurd, and I say this as a nationalist."

Mr Biffen is a member of the special cabinet committee set up to oversee any possible British Leyland sale. But it is thought that two of his committee colleagues, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, and Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, both representing Midlands constituencies, are more sensitive to the political pressures.

Those pressures were yesterday reinforced in a speech by Mr Edward Heath, the former prime minister, who told a Coventry conference of the Conservative Group for Europe that there was no electoral mandate for the possible sale to General Motors, which he described as unjustified and naive.

"The Government will pay dearly if it insists, against the wishes of the British people, in steam-rolling this through," he said.

Letters, page 13

England in danger

England faced the prospect of losing the first Test to the West Indies inside three days when their batting collapsed again at Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica, yesterday.

Graham Gooch and Tim Robinson were both dismissed for ducks after England had started their second innings 148 behind, so undoing all the good work of medium pace bowler Richard Ellison, of Kent.

The West Indies had been bowled out for 307, with Ellison taking five for 78, but at lunch, England were 18 for two. David Gower, the captain, trying to find his form, was on eight and Peter Willey, sent in at No 4 because David Smith was suffering from sunstroke, on seven.

John Woodcock, page 24

Football split

Scotland will have a new national football league next season following a decision to break away from the Scottish League by nine leading clubs. It will consist of two or three divisions, and a premier division of 10 clubs, with promotion of one-up and one-down, has been agreed.

High Taylor, page 26

Tories give school vouchers priority

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

The Conservative Party is planning to go into the next election with a radical new plan for education, including a voucher system which would enable parents to switch their children from state to private schools.

Vouchers, which would roughly match the cost of a state education, could be spent instead at private schools.

It is even being suggested that the scheme could be given its initial trials in the educationally deprived inner cities, where the vouchers could be spent in a new network of direct grant primary schools.

Because the proposals will be fought by the so-called Conservative "wets" and by the Whitehall establishment, the Prime Minister will need all the backing of loyalist ministers and MPs if the plan is to be driven through into the next election manifesto.

Nevertheless, it is expected that she will get her way on an issue which is regarded as the highest priority. Senior Conservatives are confident that the next "radical Conservative push" will drive back the

frontiers on the state system of education as effectively as the Government has rolled back the state sector of industry.

The voucher scheme, which is now being called the credit or access system, was last proposed by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, at the Conservative Party conference in 1982.

He linked his proposal with open enrolment, the scheme under which parents are able to switch their children to popular state schools, which are given funds to expand by up to one extra class of entry each year.

That plan was effectively sabotaged by official hostility within the Department of Education and Science, but it is intended that the new proposals will be driven through by a determined Secretary of State with the full backing of a manifesto mandate.

It is thought, therefore, that Mr Christopher Patten, Sir Keith's current deputy and leading Conservative "wet,"

Continued on page 2, col 4



Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, the rebellious Philippines Defence Minister, outside his headquarters yesterday.

Economy is given twin boost

By Our City Staff

Plunging oil prices and the lower pound have both given a huge boost to industry in the UK, and the Confederation of British Industry predicts that output should rise sharply over the next four months.

The CBI's survey of monthly trends for February shows a 34 per cent of firms expect output to rise and only 11 per cent expect it to decline. The survey also indicates that industry's order books have improved from the low level recorded in January.

Reflecting this optimism, the London Business School has raised its forecast of Britain's economic growth next year from 2.1 per cent to 2.9 per cent, following the fall in oil prices and expects inflation to fall below 4 per cent by the middle of this year.

The LBS, whose forecast often provides useful clues to thinking in the Treasury, believes the fall in oil prices has restored all scope for cost cuts in the Budget on March 18.

The CBI survey is the last to be published by the organization before the Budget.

Sir Terence Beckett, the CBI director general, said: "It is vital that industry takes advantage of this tremendous opportunity in export markets."

Comment, page 17



Mr Beckett: "Tremendous opportunity"

Paper run beats the pickets

By Patricia Cough

The print run of more than four million copies of the *News of the World* and nearly 1.4 million copies of the *Sunday Times* left Wapping on Saturday night despite delays caused by a demonstration by about four thousand print workers and sympathizers, *News International* said yesterday.

Five policemen and at least one demonstrator were injured as missiles were thrown in clashes at the gates of the *News International* plant where the print workers were joined by engineers, electricians, and for the first time, firemen.

Forty-seven people were arrested of whom 32 were charged with a variety of offences including assault, criminal damage, threatening behaviour, causing actual bodily harm, and blocking the highway, Scotland Yard said. The rest were cautioned.

The demonstration started with a march by about 1,800 printers, led by a brass band, from Fleet Street to Wapping. The departure of the *News International* lorries was delayed for a couple of hours, but eventually all left and as far as is known reached their destination, the company said.

The company however lost 271,000 copies of the *News of the World* at its Glasgow plant because of mechanical trouble. It printed 927,000 copies.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, defended his decision to boycott *News International* papers in an article in the *News of the World*.

He said it was "nonsense" to claim that it undermined his commitment to more open government. NI journalists would continue to see Labour's press releases and attend public addresses by Labour politicians.

It was also "rubbish" to

Continued on page 2, col 2

People's power breaks siege by Marcos troops

From David Watts, Manila

Filipino people's power triumphed for a moment over the might of President Marcos's military machine as darkness fell last night.

The pride of the Philippines Marines in US-built armoured troop carriers and British Scorpion tanks pulled out of the siege of the Manila police headquarters, prevented from taking any action against the rebellious Defence Minister and Chief of Police by hundreds of thousands of civilians who surrounded the Marines with barricades of buses, sandbags, logs and piles of rubble.

Revved-up engines belched clouds of oil smoke as the great camouflaged war machines moved off in the direction of their barracks, and some of their crews surreptitiously gave the opposition sign.

President Marcos, meanwhile, was claiming quite the reverse. The military had the rebels cut off and were preventing the passage of troops either in or out of police headquarters, where Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, Mr Marcos's Defence Minister for 17 years, and the Chief of Police, General Fidel Ramos, were holding out, after finding the courage to declare what the rest of the country has known for some time: that Mr Marcos is no longer a legitimate President.

In reality the Marines were half a mile from Camp Crame, which was surrounded by a vast wall of protective citizenry, but then Mr Marcos appears more and more out of touch with both reality and truth with each passing day. On television he constantly reiterated his desire that there should be no bloodshed, that no civilians should get hurt, but alternating this with threats to use mortars and artillery as he tried to negoti-

ate his way out of the most crucial blow yet to his regime. Mr Marcos the belligerent is the more honest to a man the Marines arriving yesterday afternoon admitted that they had orders to fire on civilians if necessary.

The reality is that the civilians called Mr Marcos's bluff. There was no particular love for Mr Enrile in the past—he ran the Marcos martial law apparatus and put hundreds of political prisoners away in the very camp where he took refuge this weekend—but the people, called out by Cardinal Sin to help him, risked their lives in confronting the military. They found they could face down the 75mm cannon and heavy machine guns on the Marines' APCs, knowing that the small number of Marines in Manila appeared to be all the military men that Mr Marcos could be sure of yesterday.

While he spoke of tough military action against the rebels, it was clear that other units were refusing to attack their own. One report said there had been several unsuccessful attempts to get strike forces together. The Air Force was conspicuous by its absence from the sky until one helicopter joined the Marines in late afternoon.

Both Mr Enrile and General Ramos have pledged never to surrender, and indeed they now have no choice: their criticisms of Mr Marcos over the weekend would never be forgiven.

In response Mr Marcos produced what is thought to be his second or third assassination plot. A few weeks ago it was "fair-skinned men" who were out to get him. Yesterday there were confessions from three young Army men at the

Continued on page 2, col 7

Rebels say President's elite force is deserting

From Michael Binyan, Washington

All 13 regional army commanders in the Philippines were giving support to the rebellion against President Marcos, Lieutenant-General Fidel Ramos, chief of the national police, told American television yesterday.

Scores of young officers from Mr Marcos's elite guard were deserting him, because they could not stomach orders to arrest fellow officers. "Sizeable elements" from the Army, Navy and Air Force would support any move to remove Mr Marcos from power.

President Marcos, also appearing on television, scoffed at the rebellion, saying the leader had only 400 troops. "We are probably in control of

98 to 99 per cent of the military." He also emphasized that he would not step down from office.

Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, the Defence Minister, also said a large group of seemingly loyal soldiers were obeying orders reluctantly, but they would not attack anti-Marcos demonstrators.

Mr Enrile and General Ramos, speaking from the Ministry of Defence in Manila, where they are leading the rebellion, called on Mr Marcos to leave office peacefully. He could leave the Philippines and live anywhere he wanted.

If he refused to go, the two men would continue using "people power" to get him out.

Hill Net, page 9

HELP

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Stage set, page 8

Muscovites expect party to deliver the goods

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The 27th congress of the ruling Soviet Communist Party begins tomorrow under an unprecedented atmosphere of self-criticism by Soviet officials and the media — criticism deliberately encouraged by Mr Gorbachev.

Yesterday, as scores of high-level representatives from foreign communist and other left-wing parties arrived in the capital, the official daily *Sovetskaya Rossiya* said the congress would discuss the need for "drastic changes" in all areas of Soviet life.

A front-page editorial predicted that during the meeting — expected to be the most important held here since 1961 — the Soviet people would be called upon to show

"selflessness, persistence, a fearless rejection of material inertia, of complacency and of everything that has enervated its time."

Until Mr Gorbachev completes his opening address tomorrow, it will not be known how much of the intense pre-congress debate was rhetoric and how many of the radical suggestions will be ordered into practice by the 18 million or so party members.

One senior Soviet source told *The Times* that the congress would set the tone for the new Soviet Union and everyone was expecting it to lead to substantial changes in the way the country was run. He said the people were backing Mr Gorbachev in his bid to rid the Soviet Union of those who had been living for

themselves and not their country. In everyday conversations with Muscovites, there is no mistaking their expectations have been aroused by the pre-congress publicity and sweeping attacks on corrupt and inefficient officials. As one retired Moscow lawyer said — reflecting the new frankness with which foreigners are treated at the bidding of Mr Gorbachev — it is more than time that we sent to pension all those bureaucrats who sit at their desks, carving good salaries and interested in nothing but making themselves fat.

The new mood was reflected last week by Pravda, which published a long article under the headline "cleaning" covering the calls for party reforms

which have been flooding into its offices throughout the country.

Mr B. Alexeyev, a Muscovite and veteran party member who joined its ranks two years after the 1917 revolution, wrote: "As an old Bolshevik, I think we must establish a party rule to hold periodic purges". But Miss Tatiana Samoilova, the paper's influential letters correspondent, rejected the suggestion by saying the party was already carrying out an enormous task including the cleaning of its own ranks. "It is not a purge, but a cleansing," she said.

The letters — whose publication in itself indicated some official backing for their often radical demands — included outspoken attacks of the glaring perks enjoyed by the party

elite, such as special budgets, hospitals and closed shops which offer access to much-prized Western goods; mass bribe-taking and calls for more explicit reporting of the punishments meted out to the guilty.

The point was taken up again this week by *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, which carried a series of angry pre-congress letters from ordinary citizens demanding the right to know what decisions were being taken behind closed doors at party and trade union meetings.

The paper concluded: "Unfortunately... we know more about the news in any African country than we do about our own home."

Labour is steeled to expel Militant

By Anthony Bevis
Political Correspondent

The Labour leadership is preparing itself for outright confrontation with the Trotskyite Militant Tendency on Wednesday when the party's national executive considers disciplinary action against Liverpool hardliners.

A report from a nine-strong inquiry team is thought to identify more than ten key figures in the Liverpool Militant hierarchy, including Mr Derek Hatton, deputy leader of the council, Mr Tony Mulhearn, president of the district party, and Mr Terry Harrison, deputy president and one of the Tendency's founders.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said on *Face the Press* yesterday: "Where we can establish firm evidence for people being part of the Militant Tendency, they will be put out of the party. That's what I've said for a long time; that's what we'll stick to."

The inquiry has been very thorough, the consideration will be very thorough, and the action taken will be very thorough.

But the inquiry report is understood to contain a dissenting section from Miss Margaret Beckett and Mrs Audrey Wise. Mr Tony Benn and Mr Eric Heffer have given notice that they will oppose expulsions on Wednesday.

The meeting will be lobbied by Militant supporters, a protest which may provide graphic evidence of the scale of Trotskyist infiltration into the party.

Although Mr Kinnock believes that a public show of strength is necessary to reassure traditional Labour voters that Liverpool is not an example of Labour in office, any expulsions will be met with a tough, concerted and prolonged counterattack.

Those charged with Militant membership are expected to be asked to attend a further national executive meeting next month, to answer the charges, and if there are any expulsions there will be a final right of appeal to this year's party conference.

Mr Hatton said yesterday: "I am quite prepared to go in any meeting of the national executive committee to answer any so-called allegations."

"So far, all the inquiry has done is spend 60 hours talking 'little tattle'. There has been no suggestion of any evidence at all against any single member of the party in Liverpool. The party in Liverpool certainly opposes any single expulsion that might come out."

Concorde trip to Mexico

Concorde is to fly to Mexico for the first time, taking 100 people for a three-night holiday in Las Brisas, Acapulco. Ninety-nine passengers will pay £3,475, get tickets for the soccer World Cup final, and be accompanied by a celebrity host.

Mr Arthur Britten, News International's Director of Corporate Affairs, said of Mr Kinnock's stance: "We deplore any kind of censorship and that's what it is."

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Secret report calls for revised police gun tactics

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Consideration of new tactics in the use of guns by the police is proposed by the Police Complaints Authority in a confidential report to the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd.

It may be that the time has come to set up an inquiry into the advantages and disadvantages of setting up special firearms teams, possibly regional ones, to undertake armed operations, the report says.

The authority is concerned about the present practice, which calls police officers with firearms training from normal duties to take part in armed operations.

That caused the authority to consider whether it was fair and reasonable to expect a policeman to be an ordinary beat officer at one moment and then within a few hours to be a member of a team in a potentially dangerous firearms operation. Arguably, too much was being asked of such an officer.

But Mr Hurd is strongly resisting the idea of setting up elite groups of police officers on permanent firearms duty ready for armed incidents.

These are known as SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) squads in the United States.

The authority has said that there should be a fundamental review of police firearms procedure. The intention should be to tighten the rules for the planning and control of armed operations.

The authority expresses concern that there is insufficient planning and reconnaissance before many armed operations and not enough consideration given to alternative action before arms are issued.

There should be a review of guidelines for the authorization of the use of firearms, with particular reference to raids on family homes.

A checklist should be available for senior officers on the planning, command and control of armed operations. It should be issued as Home Office guidance.

The minimal trigger pressures on all handguns should be standardized and there should be a thorough look at the type of bullet now used. Ballistic experts are worried that it tends to fragment on impact, causing extra damage.

There should be better planning of operations, with information on the layout of premises and whether innocent parties are present.

All authorized firearms officers, the report adds, should be subject to regular fitness and medical tests. The amount of initial and refresher training should be increased.

French and British authorities were trying to place together details of the voyage of the Panama-registered coaster *Silver Sea*. Reports conflicted about the type of military equipment on board and the purpose of the voyage.

Sources in Paris and London suggested a link between the voyage of the *Silver Sea* and opponents of President Joseph Mobutu, who came to power last November.

The president said in his inaugural address to the people of Sierra Leone three weeks ago that the country suffered from high rates of inflation and foreign debt. He promised a fight against "economic subversion" involved in smuggling, customs evasion and "other business malpractices".

In spite of its economic poverty the country is rich in natural resources, especially diamonds of exceptionally fine quality. The most detailed statement about the *Silver Sea* came yesterday from M Jacques Coulomb, deputy prosecutor in Brest, where the crew were first questioned.

He said that the 12 released men had British passports, and did not seem to know where their ship was going. They had not been charged because even if they were mercenaries that was not in itself an offence.

Mr Coulomb rejected reports that the ship had been crisscrossed with heavy weapons, but said that the skipper, named as Mr William Sutton, might face charges of importing undeclared cargo and of breaking laws about concerning the handling of military equipment.

On Saturday, he was flown to Paris from Brest for questioning by French counter intelligence agents.

But although the first reports over the weapons on board had been exaggerated, it would be wrong to underestimate the significance of the affair.

The 150-foot *Silver Sea*, built on the Clyde more than 25 years ago, set sail from Southampton, but after three days it was forced to make for the French coast in stormy weather last Monday. Coast guard officers who sighted the vessel in a sensitive area near the Brest naval military complex reported later that there were jeeps, uniforms and electronic equipment on board.

Several daggers and small arms belonging to the crew have been seized.

Four women peace protesters broke into the US air force base at Lakenheath, Suffolk, yesterday after cutting through its security fence. They were detained by an American patrol who handed them over to Ministry of Defence police.

Lord Dudley is claiming label damages over a book, *Princes Michael of Kent*, against Peter Lane, the author, and publishers Robert Hale. In a High Court writ, he asks that references to his family be removed immediately from future editions.

A boom in the demand for British heavy horses has led to 51 Shires being exported in the past four months. The main buyers are the United States, Canada, West Germany, the Netherlands and Australia.

A £20,000 investigation into why others have died in Norfolk has been launched by naturalists after two of the animals proved to have been contaminated with farm chemicals.

Police Constable Brian Dobson, aged 42, is to have a street named after him in Whitnash, Warwickshire, which he has policed for 12 years.

Five hundred staff and factory workers at the Stuart Crystal glass-making company in Stourbridge, Hereford and Worcester, have taken a 10 per cent pay cut to avoid redundancy.

Hayley Hayes, aged six, died from burns at the Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, yesterday after a fire at her home in Exeter which killed her brother Daniel, aged three.

Reeling from the "Three Swans" scandal, the Prince of Wales has been forced to resign his post as patron of the Royal Welsh Football Association. The Prince's resignation was announced yesterday.

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The man identified as Captain William Sutton, whose ship allegedly had a cargo of military equipment, with police at Brest.

French hold skipper with arms cargo

By Hugh Clayton

The British captain of a ship alleged to be involved in an attempt to overthrow an African government, thought to be Sierra Leone, was being questioned yesterday after his crew of 12 had been released.

French and British authorities were trying to place together details of the voyage of the Panama-registered coaster *Silver Sea*. Reports conflicted about the type of military equipment on board and the purpose of the voyage.

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power last November.

The president said in his inaugural address to the people of Sierra Leone three weeks ago that the country suffered from high rates of inflation and foreign debt. He promised a fight against "economic subversion" involved in smuggling, customs evasion and "other business malpractices".

In spite of its economic poverty the country is rich in natural resources, especially diamonds of exceptionally fine quality. The most detailed statement about the *Silver Sea* came yesterday from M Jacques Coulomb, deputy prosecutor in Brest, where the crew were first questioned.

He said that the 12 released men had British passports, and did not seem to know where their ship was going. They had not been charged because even if they were mercenaries that was not in itself an offence.

Mr Coulomb rejected reports that the ship had been crisscrossed with heavy weapons, but said that the skipper, named as Mr William Sutton, might face charges of importing undeclared cargo and of breaking laws about concerning the handling of military equipment.

On Saturday, he was flown to Paris from Brest for questioning by French counter intelligence agents.

But although the first reports over the weapons on board had been exaggerated, it would be wrong to underestimate the significance of the affair.

The 150-foot *Silver Sea*, built on the Clyde more than 25 years ago, set sail from Southampton, but after three days it was forced to make for the French coast in stormy weather last Monday. Coast guard officers who sighted the vessel in a sensitive area near the Brest naval military complex reported later that there were jeeps, uniforms and electronic equipment on board.

Several daggers and small arms belonging to the crew have been seized.

Four women peace protesters broke into the US air force base at Lakenheath, Suffolk, yesterday after cutting through its security fence. They were detained by an American patrol who handed them over to Ministry of Defence police.

Lord Dudley is claiming label damages over a book, *Princes Michael of Kent*, against Peter Lane, the author, and publishers Robert Hale. In a High Court writ, he asks that references to his family be removed immediately from future editions.

A boom in the demand for British heavy horses has led to 51 Shires being exported in the past four months. The main buyers are the United States, Canada, West Germany, the Netherlands and Australia.

A £20,000 investigation into why others have died in Norfolk has been launched by naturalists after two of the animals proved to have been contaminated with farm chemicals.

Police Constable Brian Dobson, aged 42, is to have a street named after him in Whitnash, Warwickshire, which he has policed for 12 years.

Five hundred staff and factory workers at the Stuart Crystal glass-making company in Stourbridge, Hereford and Worcester, have taken a 10 per cent pay cut to avoid redundancy.

Hayley Hayes, aged six, died from burns at the Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, yesterday after a fire at her home in Exeter which killed her brother Daniel, aged three.

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Treasury faces opposition over 'too small' benefit rises

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Increases in social security benefits from July are expected to be announced today with a rise of between 40p and 45p a week in the single old age pension and of between 65p and 70p for a couple.

The increases come after the publication last week of figures showing a rise in the retail price index of 1.1 per cent between last May—the base-line for the previous rise paid in November—and January's inflation figure.

The uprating is to take effect this July because ministers are moving the annual uprating date from the traditional November increase to April as part of the Government's social security reforms. This July's increase will be followed by another in April next year.

Conventionally, increases are rounded to the nearest 5p which would give an increase of only 40p on the single person's pension of £38.30, and of 65p on a couple's pension of £61.30, although both figures almost reach the

Remands by courts 'unfair lottery'

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Unfair and capricious differences between courts in the granting of bail are cited in a report published today by the Prison Reform Trust.

Calling the system a lottery, the report says that defendants in Dorset are 12 times more likely to be remanded in custody than their counterparts in Bedfordshire. Yet the Bail Act, 1976 was supposed to lead to greater consistency and a drastic reduction in remands in custody.

Great differences exist even between neighbouring areas. Uxbridge magistrates remand in custody 19 per cent of those whose cases cannot go ahead immediately while at Harrow

When police make things worse

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A judge has issued a warning about the dangers that can follow the intervention of over-assertive police officers in public house brawls and similar incidents.

Writing in the current issue of *NASPO News*, the magazine of the National Association of Senior Probation Officers, Judge Pickles writes that the

Hunt to trace fake art deco ceramics

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Phillips auctioneers have supplied the police with a kit for recognizing fake Clarice Cliff ceramics which have flooded the market over the past few weeks.

The vases, plates and other wares, naïvely painted in bright colours, which made the artist popular in the 1930s have become worth hundreds and sometimes thousands of pounds since American collectors became interested a few years ago.

Phillips's 18 salerooms around the country have been issued with a "fake recognition" kit. It comprises colour photographs of three views of a false vase and the same pictures of a genuine item for comparison. Five sets of the kit have been passed to police for circulation to home county forces.

It was the sudden appearance of large numbers of Clarice Cliff pots on the market which led experts to realize that a large-scale fraud was taking place.

Three dealers in art deco pottery rumbled what was going on. Mr Michael Playford bought a hitherto unknown type of vase at an auction in December for £460. Shortly afterwards, he found that a second dealer had a similar piece. They assumed both were good early examples. It was when the second dealer was offered an identical vase to the first that their suspicions were aroused.

A third dealer, Miss Beverley Adams, saw some pieces at Phillips which made her suspicious. She visited Christie's in South Kensington, and found more. The dealers contacted the auction rooms and the Department of Fair Trading.

Miss Adams said: "To see seven fakes in one day makes me shudder to think how much there is still to come up. The fakes are absolutely spot-on and could fool a lot of collectors."

According to Mr Playford, the inside of the fake vases have a coffee-coloured shading rather than the normal honey-coloured glaze.



Miss Lynn Hutton watching Mr Alan Corbridge working on a Queen Street Mill loom.

Mill town has room for jobs

By Charles Knevitt, Architecture Correspondent

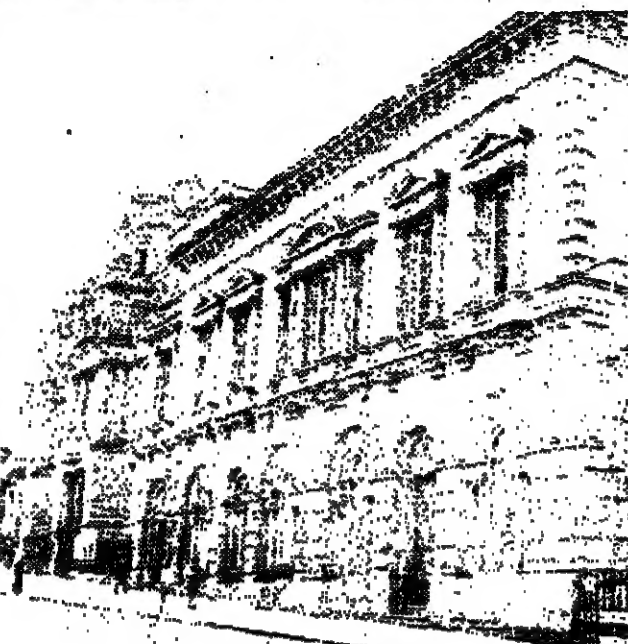
Burnley in Lancashire was once a booming manufacturing town, the world's largest exporter of cotton goods. The wealth it created supported six theatres and 16 cinemas, and during the Second World War it hosted visits from both the Old Vic and Sadler's Wells.

But, as with many of its neighbouring towns, it fell prey to the 27 per cent drop in manufacturing employment in Britain between 1960 and 1978. The hundreds of cotton mills which closed have found new uses for other types of industry, warehousing and small order, and small industrial and workshop units.

As Dr Nicholas Falk of Urban and Economic Development told the Royal Society of Arts in 1984: "The real problem is not that of making the physical conversion to new uses and roles, but of making the mental changes needed to manage decline in ways that are acceptable to all concerned."

"This is largely due to the inertia and conservatism of the institutions that control the bulk of the resources, and their unwillingness to recognize the significance of the post-industrial age we are entering."

Two short-listed entries for *The Times/RTA Community Enterprise Scheme*, visited by assessors last week, demonstrate the part that partner-



The Burnley Mechanics' Institute, refurbished to lure jobs.

ship with Burnley Borough Council, using funds from a number of different sources.

The aim is to create 100 jobs through its new lease of life and a working museum, small workshop units, and local tourist attraction point. Work started in 1984 and the workshops between voluntary organizations and local council, with government and private sector assistance, can lead to the regeneration of each place.

Queen Street Mill, Harle Sykes, is the last remaining steam-powered cotton weaving mill in the country. It has recently been refurbished as part of an ambitious industrial heritage scheme by Pennine Heritage, a charitable volun-

Vickers sale Sealed bids herald a new tomorrow

In the first of two articles, Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent, sets the scene for the submission tomorrow of bids to acquire Britain's only nuclear submarine-building company.

The days of the traditional, majestic, launching of ships are almost over at the Vickers shipyard at Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.

When a £220 million investment programme has been completed ships and submarines will enter the water, or be raised out of it, with a minimum of splash or wave by 108 winches, each capable of lifting 225 tonnes and together able to handle vessels of up to about 24,000 tonnes. It is claimed that it will be the most powerful shiplifting system in the world.

That is one of many changes that are occurring at Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering, a company which includes not only the Barrow shipyard but also Cammell Laird at Birkenhead on Merseyside.

The most important change is planned to occur at the end of next month when the company will cease to be part of the nationalized British Shipbuilders and be taken into private ownership.

An important step in that process will be taken tomorrow when sealed bids by would-be owners of the company will be submitted to Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank acting for British Shipbuilders. There are expected to be only two bids, one from Trafalgar House and the other from a Vickers management consortium.

The two prospective bidders have adopted very different strategies. Trafalgar House has remained quiet about its intentions, to the extent of saying that it will not decide whether to bid until late today.

The management-led consortium, on the other hand, is publicly seeking to encourage employees and other local residents to take a stake in the company if the consortium's bid is successful.

The yards at Barrow and Birkenhead hold or have in prospect the orders for all the submarines, nuclear and non-nuclear, that are going to be built between now and the end of the decade for the Royal Navy.

However, although the company's order book is worth about £1,000 million, if present government policy is maintained the company's activities over the next 10 years will be dominated by one project: the construction at a cost of about £400 million each of four 16,000-ton submarines to carry the new strategic nuclear deterrent, Trident.

There has been some con-

cern in the Ministry of Defence about the risks of placing a company so central to Britain's defence activities in private hands.

The consortium has sought to meet those concerns by proposing that the Government should have a so-called "golden share" which for routine purposes would not carry any voting rights, but which would give the Government a veto in certain circumstances.

The consortium intends that there should be no shareholding of more than 15 per cent, and the Government's veto could be applied to prevent that happening.

The consortium hopes that employees and the local community will take up at least 30 per cent of the shares, with a handful of financial institutions taking the rest.

Employees who subscribe for 500 shares are being offered an extra 150 free, and those who take up 200 will receive an extra 50.

Suggestions that the take-up of shares by employees and the local community could fall far short of the consortium's hopes are denied by Mr Richard Fortin, a director of Lloyds Merchant Bank, advising the consortium.

Negotiations on the contract for the first of the Trident submarines are still continuing. Vickers recognizes that the project is vulnerable to cancellation if the Tories fail to win the next general election and the company, therefore, has been pressing for tight provisions for compensation in the event of a cancellation.

The company wants to be fully covered for payment for work done up to the time of a cancellation, compensation for loss of profits, and provision for what could be a prolonged transitional period while alternative work was being sought.

The Labour Party is committed to provide alternative orders giving an equivalent number of man-hours of work if it is returned to power and cancels Trident.

That offer may be less attractive than it looks for it would almost certainly involve the ordering of nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarines and much of the work would probably constitute merely the bringing forward of work that would have gone to Vickers anyway.

Tomorrow: Work on Trident begins.

Law Report February 24 1986

No liability for trespassers' damages

King v Liverpool City Council
Before Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Nicholls and Mr Justice Caulefield
(Judgment given February 18)

An occupier of vacant premises did not owe a duty of care to residents of other premises to take steps to prevent trespassers from entering the vacant premises and damaging water pipes therein, and he therefore would not be liable in negligence to a resident of premises which had been flooded as a result of water escaping from such damaged pipes.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Mrs Mary King, against the dismissal by the Liverpool County Court (Judge Sachs) on January 8, 1985 of her claim for damages in nuisance and negligence against the defendant, Liverpool City Council, which owned the flat in which the plaintiff had lived and the flat immediately above it, in respect of flooding in the flat occupied by the plaintiff caused by water escaping from pipes in the vacant flat which had been damaged by vandals.

Mr David Marshall Evans, QC and Mr Graham Wood for the plaintiff; Mr John Kay, QC and Mr William Brightwaite for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE PURCHAS said that the plaintiff had informed the defendant that the upstairs flat was vacant and had asked for it to be secured against trespassers.

The trial judge had found that that had not been done, or if it had it had not prevented vandals entering the vacant flat on three occasions and damaging the rising main, that it would not have been possible for the rising main to have been disconnected without affecting the water supply to other flats, and that it would not have been possible for the defendant to take any effective steps which would have prevented the vandalism.

The plaintiff had conceded that, on the facts of this case, the nuisance claim could only succeed if she could establish that the defendant had been negligent, but had argued that the judge had been wrong to dismiss the negligence claim on the basis that she was bound to do so by *P. Perle (Exporters) Ltd v Canadian London Borough Council* [(1984) QB 342], since that case was to be distinguished on the basis that the damage there (burglary) gaining access to the plaintiff's premises through unsecured vacant premises had been held to be not reasonably

foreseeable, whereas, on the judge's findings, it was plainly foreseeable here that vandals would break in and cause this kind of damage if the flat were not secured.

In essence the plaintiff's contention was that the circumstances of the flat being left vacant caused the defendant to owe a duty to the occupiers of neighbouring premises to take reasonable care to prevent the potential hazard in the flat, constituted by the pipes and the water system, from materialising in a reasonably foreseeable way.

The court had been referred to a number of cases where a defendant had been held liable for the acts of third parties, including *Dorset Yacht Co Ltd v Home Office* [(1970) AC 1004], *Harris v Birmingham Corporation* [(1976) 1 WLR 279, 288], *Ward v Cannock Chase District Council* [(1985) 3 All ER 537], *Davies v Liverpool Corporation* [(1949) 2 All ER 175], *Newby v Lightage Co Ltd* and *mo* [(1955) 1 Lloyd's Rep 273] and *Haynes v Harwood & Son* [(1935) 1 KB 146], from which it was clear that it was necessary to assess the scope of the duty of care in each case by reference to the circumstances in which it arose.

His Lordship considered in detail the judgments in *Perle's* case and that of Lord Justice Robert Goff in *Paterson Zochonis Ltd v Merjarden Packaging Ltd* [(1983) FSR 273, 296-8].

Applying the principles there enunciated to the facts found by the judge, the judge's finding that there was no effective step which the defendant could have taken which would have defeated the vandals was determinative of the appeal.

The defendant's duty of care to the plaintiff in the circumstances of this case was limited, and the judge had been right to hold that it owed no such duty to prevent the acts of vandalism which had caused the defendant's damage.

LORD JUSTICE NICHOLLS, concurring, said that he could see no distinction in principle between this case and *Perle*. There was no greater liability on an occupier because vandals had entered and caused damage by releasing water than if they had lit a fire, or had lead off the roof, permitting the entry of rain water.

Mr Justice Caulefield agreed. Solicitors: Mr Charles R. Frazer, Liverpool; Mr W.I. Murray, Liverpool.

Invalid can never claim aid from ex-wife

Seaton v Seaton
Before Lord Justice Dillon and Sir Roulleyn Cumming-Bruce
(Judgment given February 18)

A former wife with secure professional employment was not to be ordered to make any financial provision under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 for her unemployable husband, a severe and permanent invalid.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Mr Terence Seaton from the refusal of Judge Best at Yeovil County Court to accede to his application in ancillary proceedings that his wife, Mrs Jacquelyn Seaton, make periodical payments to him.

The court further went on to uphold the judge's decision to apply the "clean-break" provisions introduced by the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984 ordering that the husband never be entitled to make any further application for financial assistance against his former wife.

SIR ROULEYNE CUMMING-BRUCE said that the parties married in 1969. The

husband was now 42 and the wife 36.

In 1979 the husband lost his job as a result of criminal proceedings being taken against him. In 1983 he suffered a heart attack that had probably been contributed to by his propensity for alcohol.

The wife who had been bearing the financial burdens of their lives together, then left him. Thereafter she had lived with the co-respondent in a house that she had acquired with a 100 per cent mortgage.

In 1984, following divorce absolute, the husband suffered a major stroke which left him severely incapacitated. He could barely speak, had limited powers of concentration and his comprehension was restricted. Although incapable of looking after himself or earning his living, he had enough intelligence to watch television and to go out with friends.

He now lived with and was cared for by his parents and was in receipt of a weekly disability pension of £43. There was no prospect of his recovery. His future care lay either with his parents or the state.

For the husband it was said that the judge by refusing a

periodical payments order went wrong in failing to take account of his financial needs, bearing in mind he had no earning capacity.

Further, it was said that a clean-break order was only appropriate in cases where an applicant had either capital or an earning capacity. The husband had neither, and his former wife had an earning capacity and job security; the judge was wrong to exercise the power given to him by section 25A(3) of the 1973 Act (introduced by section 3 of the 1984 Act) and to order a clean break.

Additionally Mr Tyson asked the court to give general guidance to the legal profession by formulating a test as to the applicability of the clean-break provisions in section 25A(3). The facts of the present case were very unusual, and the invitation to formulate such a test was refused.

So far as the husband's application for periodical payments was concerned, it was the duty of the court to have regard to all the matters set out in the new section 25 and in particular those in subsection (2).

The judge had found it difficult to envisage any assistance from the wife that would have

any material effect on enhancing the life of the husband because his limited opportunities for pleasure were reasonably satisfied, given the dramatic quality of his disability.

That had led the judge to hold that it would not be just to impose on the wife a continuing obligation to contribute to his needs. Similar considerations led the judge to the view that the wife's foreseeable situation which would make it just to impose on her an obligation to give such financial support.

The judge was right in holding that it would be unjust to subject the wife to supporting the husband out of her income which, after paying her outgoings, enabled her to do no more than lead a reasonable life as a professional teacher.

Further, on the special facts and as a matter of justice, no continuing obligation should be imposed on her. The judge had clearly been correct to disentitle the husband under section 25A(3) from making a further application.

Lord Justice Dillon delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Wynn, Moore & Bradford, Yeovil; Bait, Sanders & Bennett, Yeovil.

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50 من الأصل

Israel forced to end its search in Lebanon for kidnapped troops

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Israel has ended its search for two kidnapped soldiers in south Lebanon and is instead relying on political pressure and intelligence to secure their release.

After a pessimistic briefing on the chances of finding the missing soldiers, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, decided on Saturday afternoon to end the search outside Israel's designated buffer zone in south Lebanon.

The previous evening, Major General Moshe Levy, the chief of staff, announced on television that he had ordered a partial withdrawal in the face of mounting hostilities by the local Shia population. But yesterday the hostilities continued and Katyusha rockets were fired into West Galilee.

The army had hoped to trap the kidnappers, with their hostages, by rapidly sealing off the search area but despite combing the countryside and scouring every building it found no trace.

Moreover, Israeli methods of rounding up thousands of villagers and interrogating them for hours was seen to be causing deep and dangerous resentment. While Israeli soldiers used sledge hammers to smash open locks and ransack cupboards, the Amal Shia militia began mobilizing men prepared to carry out suicide raids to force the invaders to leave.

Israeli intelligence also discovered that hundreds of gunmen from the Hezbollah fundamentalist group, which claimed to have kidnapped the soldiers, were pouring into the search area.

Meanwhile, the searchers were constantly coming up against UN troops frequently caught in the crossfire as militia men sniped at the Israeli convoys.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister of Israel, yesterday congratulated the army on its "maximum control in the field" during the operation. He said it had presented an image of the army as being concerned for the life of every soldier.

If it found no trace of the kidnappers, the search did discover huge quantities of arms, ammunition and rockets, which were more than likely to have been stockpiled for future use in raids into Israel. But not all the stock-

piles were found because yesterday's rockets were fired from somewhere south of Tyre and drew an answering barrage from Israel and the South Lebanon Army, which it backed.

Of the thousands interrogated during the search, several dozen have been detained for further questioning about their links with the Hezbollah and for possible future exchange for the two kidnapped men.

Meanwhile Israel is trying to work behind the scenes to find ways of making contact with the kidnappers. The government must also reassess its policy along the northern border with Lebanon, particularly in the light of the huge arms caches found. Although political leaders have been satisfied with border security since Israel's withdrawal last June, there is now doubt whether all will remain quiet on the northern front. By maintaining its buffer zone, Israel has kept open the border to its troops and the search operation has shown the local population that no Israeli government, whatever its political leadership, will hesitate to use the zone as its own backyard.



Israeli soldiers loading weapons and equipment yesterday as they prepared to break camp in southern Lebanon after calling off the search for their two missing colleagues.

UN draft blames Iraq for war

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

The UN Security Council, alarmed by the success of Iraq's offensive against Iran, has drafted a resolution which in effect blames Iraq for the start of the Gulf War, and begins to meet Iran's demand for ending the conflict.

The draft, spearheaded by Britain, Denmark and Australia, and refined by the non-permanent members of the council, is meant to entice Iran

into a ceasefire and negotiated settlement. It is expected to be adopted today after a four-day council debate on the latest escalation in the Gulf War.

Although the language is diplomatic and veiled, the proposed resolution censures Iraq, even though Iranian troops are in Iraqi territory. It is not expected to please Iran entirely, but diplomats regard the initiative as a first step in a more explicit declaration at a

later stage in the council's deliberations.

As a primary condition for ending the war, Iran has called for international condemnation of Iraq as the aggressor. The draft, however, after intense Iraqi and Arab pressure, "deplores the initial act which gave rise to the conflict". It marks a dramatic undertaking by the council which before the latest Iranian offensive seemed politically impossible.

Tehran mourns its martyrs with cries for revenge

From Robert Fisk, Tehran

The pall-bearers held the coffins over their heads at arms length. Each of the wooden boxes covered with the red, white and green flag of Iran seemed to float in the air above the crowd. There was, after all, little left of the 46 passengers of the Iranian Fokker Friendship blasted from the skies by the Iraqis last week.

There could be no mistaking the message given to the thousands of mourners — young men in parka jackets and jeans, Mullahs and Revolutionary Guards — "The blood of these martyrs will turn into bullets and lodge in the hearts of the enemy".

Rhythmically, they hammered their fists on their chests and the whole street outside the parliament building vibrated with a singular giant heart-beat. "Revenge, revenge," they shouted.

But how is that revenge to be taken when the news from the war front suggested the downing of the plane was in retaliation for the Iranian capture of the Fao Peninsula last week where they advanced on the ruined oil refinery town from three directions.

The Iranians have admitted they have been facing four separate Iraqi counter-attacks amid the wreckage of Fao, buoying up their own spirits

with a claim that they have killed 1,000 Iraqis. Ayatollah Khomeini spoke of the downing of the Iranian passenger aircraft over Abvaz by telling the victims' families — who included not only MPs but also Sayad Hassan Shah-Cheraghi, chief editor of the Iranian daily newspaper *Kayhan* — that they had received their rewards in death. "A nation which launched a revolution for the satisfaction of divine, spiritual and humane values," he said, "has nothing to fear from the martyrdom of its dear ones."

The funeral itself prompted thousands of mourners to wear red headbands, symbolizing their readiness for martyrdom, and push aside the military guard of honour and even the cadet school's brass band and run alongside the coffins in a near-hysterical stampede.

● BAGHDAD: Iraqi forces fighting to retake the southern tip of the Fao peninsula recaptured an important communications junction yesterday, according to the official Iraqi News Agency (Reuters reports).

The Iraqi agency said the central column launched seized the junction after fierce fighting that left Iranian corpses "filling the battleground."

Tempers high in Alexandria

Funeral threatens more violence

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The threat of renewed violence hangs over Alexandria as the black ghetto in northern Johannesburg plans a mass funeral for at least 23 people killed in riots and clashes with police in the past week.

Passions run high on such occasions and they frequently end in violence, bloody clashes with police and more funerals.

Meanwhile, an explosion in a telephone booth yesterday destroyed a Pretoria post office and badly damaged a neighbouring chemist shop and grocery. Police said no one was injured in what they believed was the work of insurgents of the outlawed African National Congress.

Senior police officials are increasingly concerned by the growing number of firearms and explosives finding their way into black townships. Until recently, the use of landmines by the ANC was confined to border areas but a guerrilla killed near East London last month had five landmines in his possession and last week one blew the rear wheel off a police armoured vehicle patrolling the outskirts of the Mamelodi township near Pretoria.

Police sources say security forces are not only facing stones and petrol bombs, fashioned from bottles and old rags, but are now coming under gunfire when they enter strife-torn townships. They believe many of the firearms are stolen from private homes or seized from murdered policemen.

A black policeman, identified as Constable M.J. Letusoa, was found dead on Saturday in Soshanguve, near Pretoria. Police said he had been stoned and beaten to death.

The angry mood in Alexandria was evident on Friday when Bishop Desmond Tutu was booed and heckled by a crowd of about 40,000 as he told them of the talks he and other churchmen had had the previous day with Mr Adrian Vlok, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Law and Order, in Cape Town.

● A mob of 500 blacks yesterday left a trail of destruction in the Transvaal township of Nelspruit, 120 miles east of Pretoria.

The eastern Transvaal province has until now been barely touched by the unrest, fuelled by grievances over apartheid race laws, in which more than 1,100 people have died in the past two years.

Three members of the Commonwealth's "eminent persons" mission, set up to promote dialogue between South African blacks and whites, were questioned by police on Friday when they tried to enter Alexandria.

Mr Malcolm Fraser, former Australian Prime Minister, General Olusegun Obasanjo, former Nigerian head of state, and Dame Nina Barron, president of the World Council of Churches, were taken to a police station and asked if they had permits to enter the townships.

Spectrum, page 10

Fraser trip to whites only beach

Johannesburg — Two members of the Commonwealth "Eminent Persons Group", approaching the end of a week-long and hitherto low-profile visit to South Africa to monitor the pace of reform, went for a stroll on the beach in Port Elizabeth at the weekend. They took photographs of the "whites only" signs as heavily-armed troops and riot police looked on (Michael Hornsby writes).

Asked to comment on what they had seen, the former Australian Prime Minister, Mr Malcolm Fraser, and the former Nigerian Head of State, General Olusegun Obasanjo, held their peace. Mr Fraser waved his pipe and General Obasanjo just smiled.

King's Beach, the stretch of sand they toured, has been in the news recently because of a precedent-setting offer by the local subsidiary of the US General Motors company to support "legally and financially" any of its 30,000 black employees prosecuted for using the beach.

It is the first time a foreign firm has gone beyond verbal condemnation of apartheid and actively encouraged civil disobedience by its employees. The issue of whether to open Port Elizabeth's beaches to all races has been fiercely debated in the city council.

So far the views of the conservative faction have prevailed. A recent decision of the council's community services committee, empowering municipal officials to have blacks removed from "white" beaches, prompted GM's offer.

Seoul ends arrest of dissident

Seoul (AFP) — The leading dissident, Mr Kim Young Sam, has been freed from house arrest, but another prominent opposition figure, Mr Kim Dae Jung, was still confined to his home, opposition sources said.

Mr Kim's aides said that 200 police had left their positions around his house.

Police also lifted their blockade of the opposition New Korea Democratic Party headquarters, where a meeting is due to take place today to discuss stepping up the NKDP's campaign for direct presidential elections.

Drugs charge

Middlebury, Vermont (AFP) — Mr John Zaccaro, aged 22, the student son of Mrs Geraldine Ferraro, Democratic vice-presidential candidate in 1984, has been charged with drug trafficking after being caught selling cocaine.

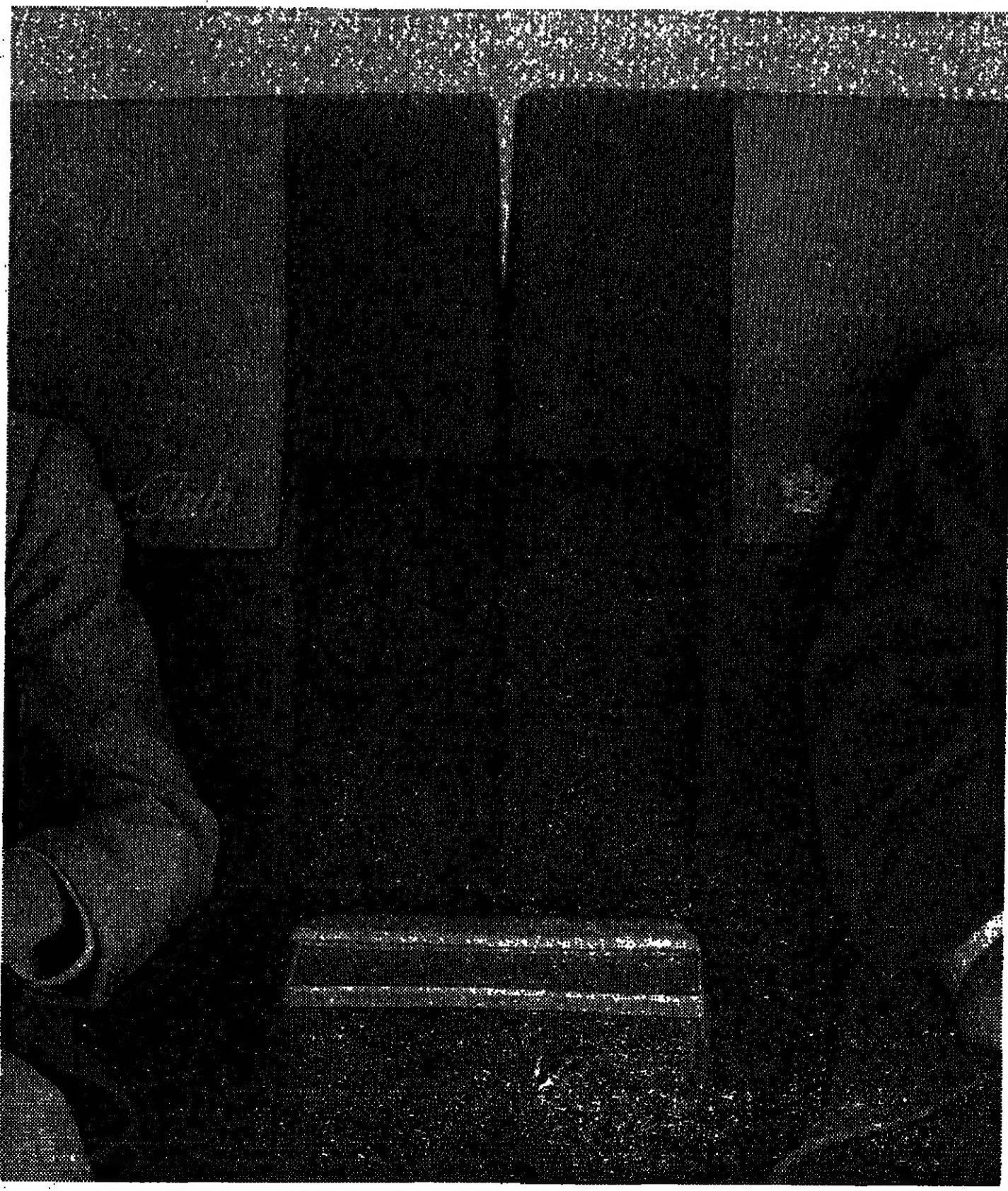
Dog saved

Columbus, Ohio (UPI) — A mongrel dog called Oden, which ruined its kidneys by drinking anti-freeze, is home again with its owner, Mariba Johnson, after receiving a new kidney from a littermate in an experimental operation which cost \$12,000 (£8,300).

Fifteen drown

Delhi (Reuters) — Twelve schoolgirls and three teachers drowned when a boat capsized during a school picnic on the Mesha River near Shamaji in western India, the Press Trust of India reported.

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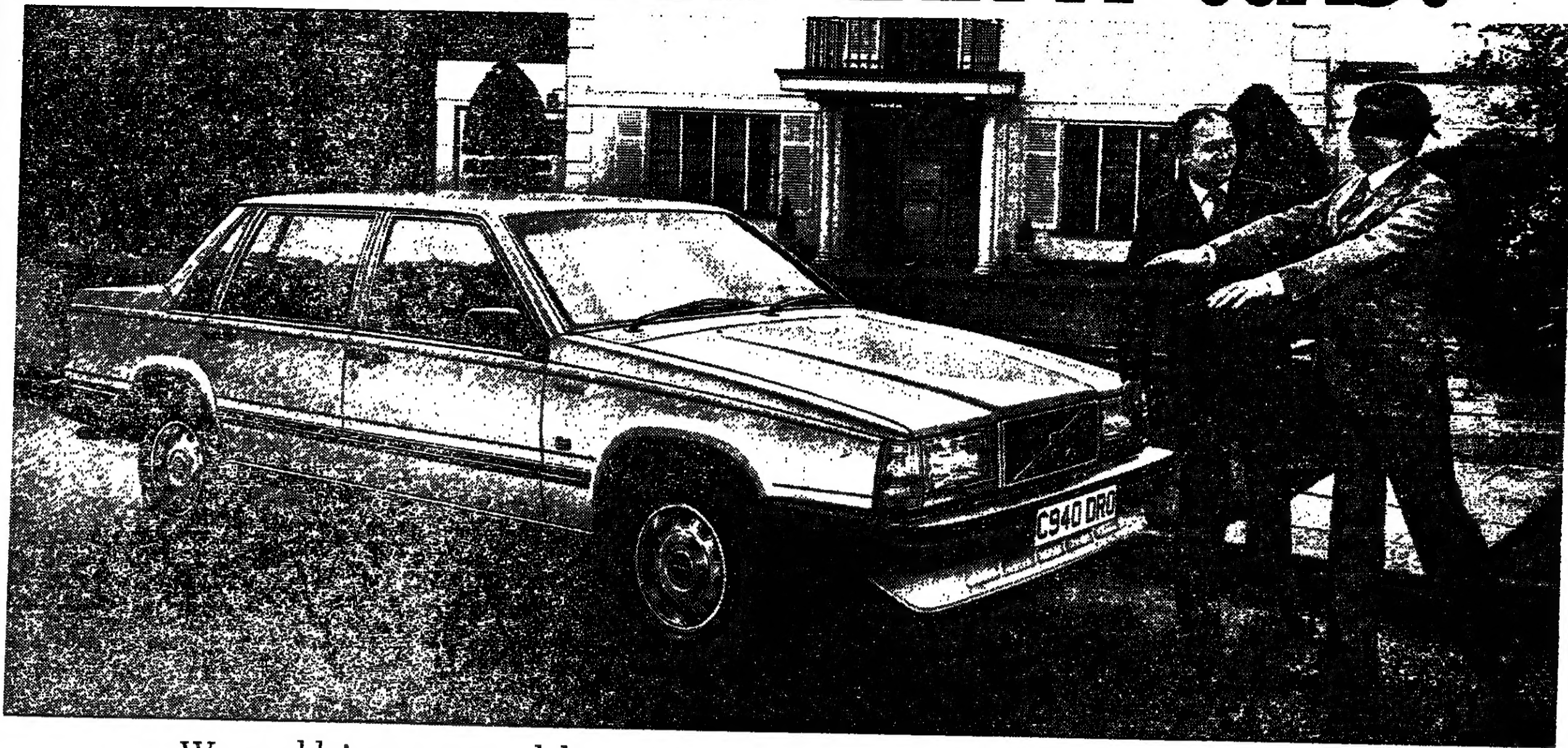
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You switch on the ignition. The engine fires instantaneously, dying to a barely audible purr.

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Perhaps, yes. But actually, no.

As you pull away from the kerb (don't worry, the salesman gives you directions) you notice the lightness and precision of the power steering.

You accelerate briskly through the gears, enjoying the smooth power of the engine.

This car is no slouch.

"IT'S ONE OF THOSE BIG BMW'S."

No it isn't.

The salesman, feeling rather pleased with himself, helps you with a few clues.

He tells you about the car's welded box-

steel construction, and the 9 coats of paint and primer that protect the bodywork.

He mentions the 13-outlet heating and ventilation system, the 17.2 cubic foot boot, the central locking.

You can feel the power-assisted brakes for yourself.

"A JAGUAR?"

Wrong again.

Against your better judgement, you start to lower your sights a bit. You did, after all, mention a price limit of £11,000.

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Unable to contain your curiosity any longer, you pull into the kerb and pull off the blindfold.

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In the other, a pen.

Despite his presumptuousness, you sign.

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Reagan wants INF weapons dumped within three years

From Michael Bunyon, Washington

President Reagan sent a letter yesterday to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, welcoming his proposal for a ban on intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe, but calling also for the elimination of Soviet weapons targeted on China and Japan.

His letter, said to be positive and optimistic in tone, is a formal reply to a Soviet proposal of January 15, which outlined a plan for the gradual elimination of all nuclear weapons by the end of the century. The White House is to issue a statement within the next day or two.

While welcoming a nuclear ban by the year 2000, Mr Reagan concentrated in his letter on an INF agreement, an area where progress looks most promising.

He called for removal of intermediate-range weapons in Europe within three years. But to alleviate concerns expressed to Mr Edward Rowny, a US arms control adviser who recently discussed the plan with Asian countries, Mr Reagan insisted SS20 missiles must be scrapped in Asia.

As one option, the President suggested limiting SS20 deployment to Soviet Central Asia and allowing the US to keep an equal number of intermediate missiles in the US. But after three years both sides would have to get rid of these missiles as well.

Mr Reagan, who also sent Mr Paul Nitze, his senior arms control adviser, to Europe to sound out allied opinion, proposed a reduction of intermediate weapons in Europe to 140 within a year, with proportional reductions in Asia. The number would then be halved and dropped to zero.

Another option would be to reduce the numbers straight down to zero in three years on a global basis.

On the British and French nuclear weapons, which Mr Gorbachev says should not be modernized, the US position is that it is up to those two countries to negotiate separately with Moscow. He reject-

ed Mr Gorbachev's proposal that the US should not supply missiles to its allies.

According to Administration officials, Mr Reagan told the Soviet leader that his plan to make the world nuclear-free was a positive gesture but nuclear weapons must be reduced one step at a time.

● Nasa fears: President Reagan, in his reply to Mr Gorbachev, is firmly rejecting the Soviet proposal to freeze British and French nuclear forces at existing levels and ban the transfer of US Trident missiles to Britain in exchange for an agreement on scrapping all Soviet and American Euro-missiles (Nicholas Ashford writes).

The US's Nato allies are waiting anxiously to hear the precise form of the American response. In particular, they want to know what level of reduction in the number of medium-range missiles Mr Reagan will propose in response to the challenge made by Mr Gorbachev that they should all be scrapped.

The Soviet offer has raised fears among the US's allies - which Washington has been unable to lay to rest completely - that the US could be tempted into reaching an agreement which would leave them militarily vulnerable.

Some European countries felt that the removal of all Pershing 2 and cruise missiles from Europe would not only leave Nato vulnerable to the conventional superiority of Warsaw Pact countries but would weaken the transatlantic link between the US and its European allies.

Britain and France were concerned that they would feel very exposed if the question of their nuclear forces appeared to be the only thing blocking an agreement on medium-range missiles.

Both countries have plans to modernize their nuclear deterrents. In Britain's case the purchase of Trident would increase by eight times the number of its nuclear war-



The American entertainer, Dan Aykroyd, proudly displaying his Legion d'Honneur after receiving the decoration in Paris

Inquiry explodes Nasa's credibility

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

The inquiry into the cause of the shuttle Challenger disaster has shocked America almost as profoundly as the explosion itself.

Almost daily during the past week, the inquiry has embarrassingly and incriminatingly revealed not simply a failure of technology but a massive failure of the entire organization.

The once vaunted National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) now virtually stands accused of culpable negligence.

Far from stemming a haemorrhage of confidence, the Rogers Commission has opened wounds through which the credibility of Nasa drains rapidly. Its revelations are far more damaging than any trouble with the O-ring seals of the booster rockets. They have not only undermined public and political support but, more seriously, have led to public questions

from the very men who were the agency's raison d'être - the astronauts.

Statements made by Nasa officials shortly after the explosion portrayed the pre-launch discussions as normal, suggesting there had been little concern about the cold weather. But the commission has found that fierce arguments raged on the eve of the launch as engineers from Morton Thiokol, the booster rocket manufacturer, tried in vain to abort the launch, warning Nasa of the danger to the seals from the cold. Nasa officials

cajoled the engineers to go against their better judgement and the long-standing rule that a safety case had to be made

for each launch was reversed. But the main accusation to come from the testimonies is that Nasa's information flow was so clogged that senior management was not informed of those safety worries - worries that had been nagging for three years - why were the rocket seals burning?

The commission, apparently shocked by testimony heard in closed sessions, has already concluded that the decision-making process "may have been flawed". It has also barred all those involved in the launch from taking part in the investigation.

The senate investigating panel has been equally shocked by the apparent reluctance of Nasa to come clean. Nearly all the damaging information on who knew what and when has been leaked anonymously.

There is no doubt heads will roll beginning at the top. Mr James Bates, the administrator, is on leave facing accusations of fraud from his previous job with a big defence contractor. But he is trying to ensure that if he goes, Dr William Graham, his acting deputy, will not replace him. The Reagan Administration bristles at any attempt to dictate terms, but probably wants both men out. Mr Jesse Moore, head of the shuttle programme, was transferred before the ill-fated launch.

What is not questioned is that the American space programme will remain on the launch pad until the astronauts themselves are assured that those sending them into space know what they are doing.

Ariane goes into perfect orbit

Kosrov, French Guinea

(AP) - The European Space Agency reported that two satellites launched by the Ariane booster were in perfect north-south orbit. With the US

space shuttle programme in temporary suspension after the explosion of Challenger, Ariane's success can only increase its share of the huge satellite launch market.

Ozal arrives home to union protest

From Razi Gurdilek, Ankara

Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, who boasted of dazzling economic successes and a restoration of democracy during his official visit to Britain last week, came home to a strong protest by workers who denounced their "ruthless exploitation" and heavy curtailment of union rights.

Some 30,000 people turned out in Izmir for a "bread, peace, freedom rally" on Sat-

urday in the first such mass demonstration since the 1980 military coup. It was organized by the once-dominant Turkish Trade Unions Confederation, the country's biggest labour confederation, with about a million members.

Falling living standards due to high inflation, to which workers feel they are particularly exposed in view of restrictive labour legislation,

was the main theme of speeches at the rally, which was closely watched by police.

Brazil grants Haiti police chief asylum

Port-au-Prince (AFP) - The former head of Haiti's notorious political police, Colonel Albert Pierre, has been given political asylum in Brazil after hiding in its embassy here.

A reliable source said asylum was also given to his wife, Mr Gener Cotin, a former colleague, and Mr Edner Pageotte Andre, a former parliamentary deputy.

Spaniards march against alliance

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Hundreds of thousands of Spaniards took to the streets of Madrid yesterday to demonstrate against remaining in Nato, as the Government of Señor Felipe Gonzalez prepared to launch its campaign for a "yes" verdict on membership in the March 12 referendum.

The demonstrators have the wind in their sails, with two public opinion polls released at the weekend showing majorities in favour of leaving Nato, especially among young people.

In an obvious bid to prevent the anti-Nato demonstration dominating the headlines, four ministers addressed rallies of Socialists yesterday in working-class suburbs of the capital. They were not well attended.

Señor Francisco Fernandez Ordoñez, the Foreign Minis-

ter, insisted that peace is best defended inside the alliance.

Speaking at the rally, Professor E.P. Thompson, the British historian, told Spaniards that they would be doing a service by withdrawing from Nato.

Señor Gonzalez is seeking to persuade Spaniards that by saying "yes" to staying in the alliance they would reinforce the "European pillar", while quitting Nato would leave Spain alone in its bilateral relationship with the US.

The most discouraging poll result for the Government came from the organization it customarily uses. A fortnight ago its poll gave a small majority in favour of staying in Nato, but the latest survey shows 31 per cent against and only 27 per cent for remaining in the alliance.

Dead spy left letter for wife

Washington - Mr Larry Wu-tai Chin, the former Central Intelligence Agency analyst convicted of spying for China for 30 years, killed himself in his prison cell on Friday by tying a plastic bag over his head, a post-mortem examination confirmed (Michael Bunyon writes).

Medical examiners found that Chin, aged 63, died of asphyxiation. A sealed letter to his wife that he posted in prison will be translated and screened for possible security information. The authorities are also investigating why he was left unsupervised.

Chin had been convicted and was due to be sentenced on March 17.

Reagan picks new White House counsel

Washington (UPI) - Mr Peter J. Wallison, aged 44, a Washington lawyer and former counsel to Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller, will succeed Mr Fred Fielding as the White House counsel, President Reagan announced on Friday.

In another announcement, President Reagan said he was nominating Mr Ronald Lauder, former chairman of Estée Lauder International, to be ambassador to Austria.

Bhutto 'tortured to death'

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

Mr Tikka Khan, a former army chief and secretary general of the Pakistan People's Party, is trying to gather evidence to prove that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the former Prime Minister, was actually tortured to death.

He said yesterday he was convinced that Bhutto, who was sentenced to hang, was carried to the scaffold at Rawalpindi jail already dead. But he believed it would be very difficult to collect evidence which could stand the test of judicial reliability after a lapse of so many years.

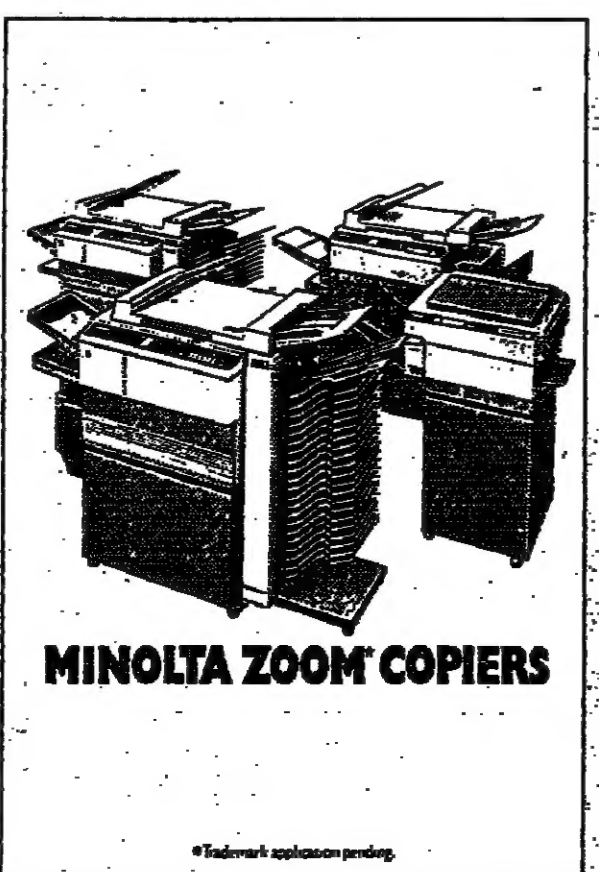
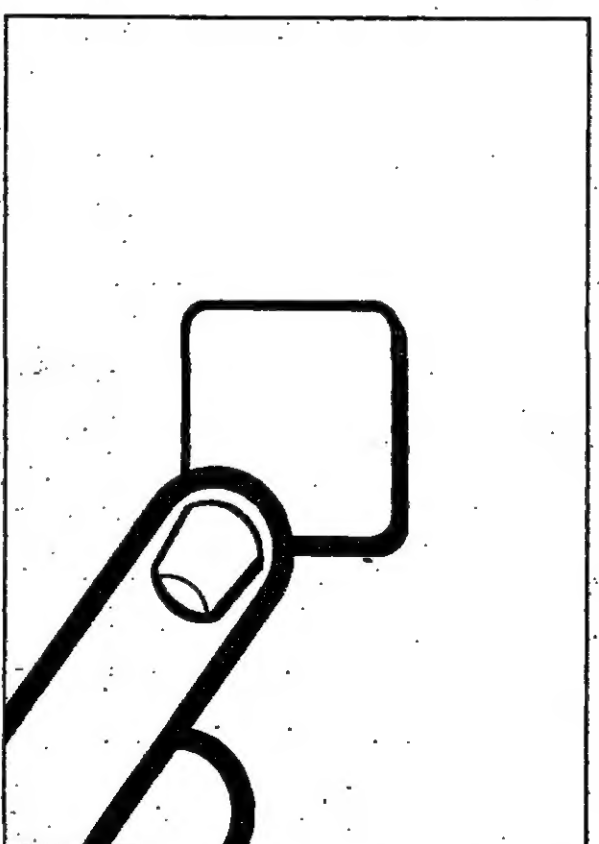
He added that it had been the consistent demand of the Pakistan People's Party leadership that facts relating to Bhutto's detention and death should be verified. Bhutto was in jail for a year and a half during his trial on a political murder charge.

Meanwhile, President Zia has said he had no intention of joining the ruling Pakistan Muslim League party.

General Zia made the statement in Sibi, Baluchistan, on Saturday.

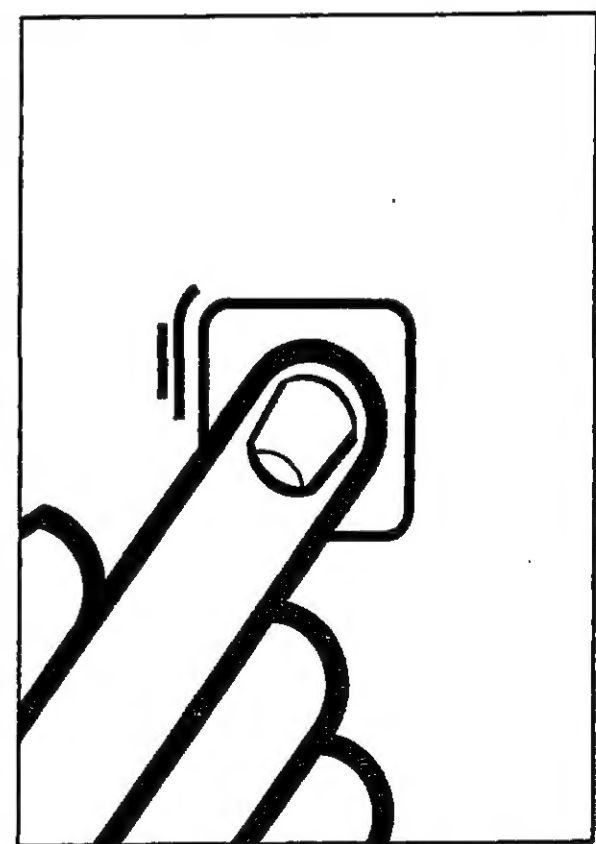
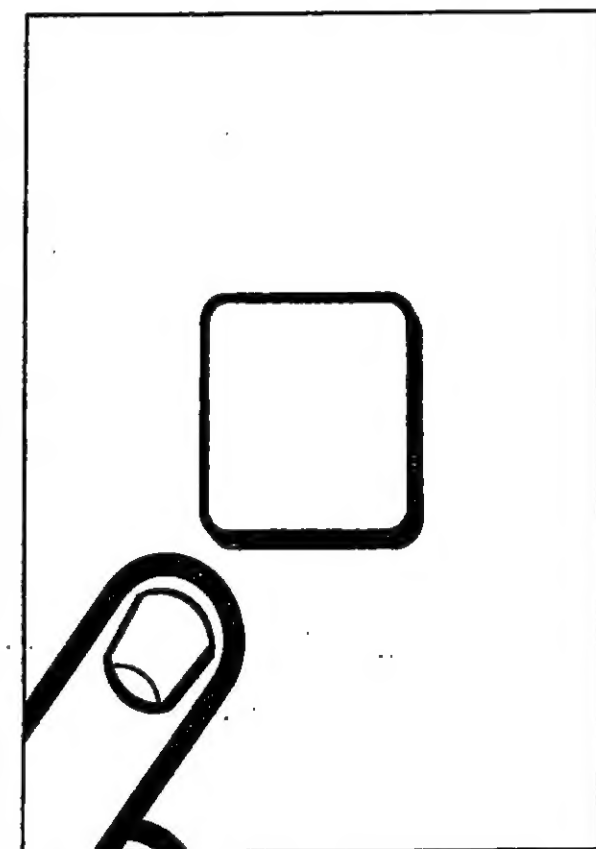
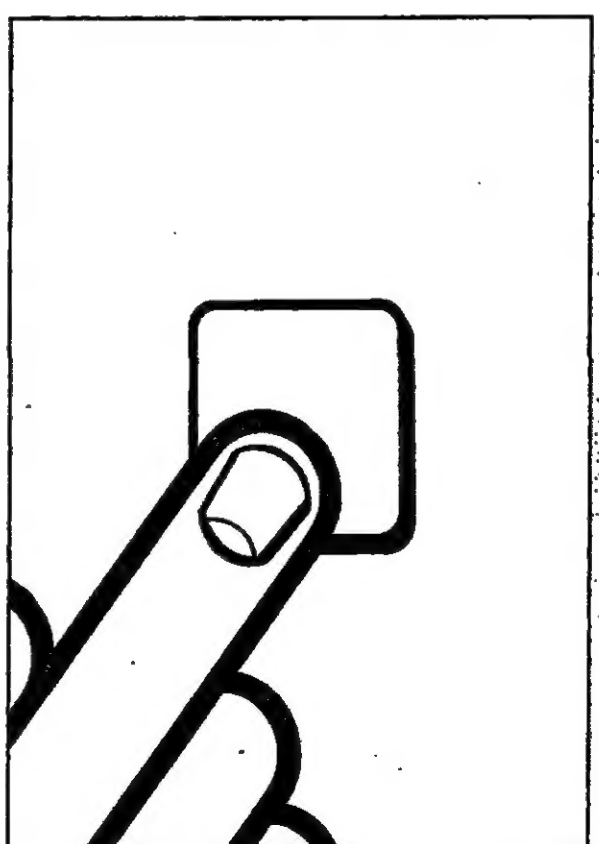
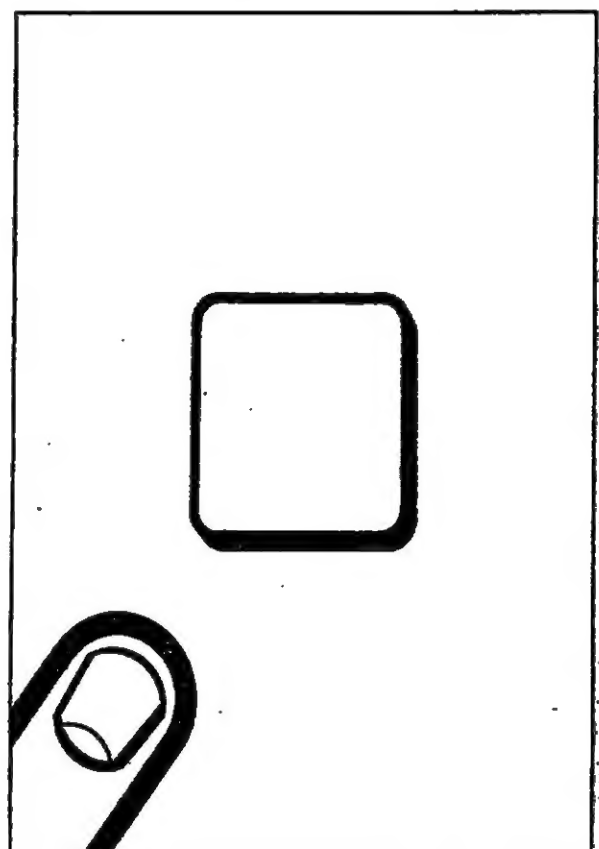
The opposition in the National Assembly has said that under the constitution General Zia could not hold the offices of President and army chief simultaneously.

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Royal visit to New Zealand

Protests greet the Queen

From Stephen Taylor
Auckland

The royal yacht Britannia, fresh from drama and adventure in the Middle East, berthed in Auckland harbour yesterday — a day late for the arrival in New Zealand of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Royal entourage embarked in the afternoon, having spent the first night of this seventh visit by the Queen to New Zealand at Government House, residence of Sir Paul Reeves, the Governor-General.

The most distant of her

realms, and also one of the most enthusiastically loyalist, New Zealand offered an unusually low-key welcome for the Queen on Saturday. The crowd at the airport to greet her arrival from Nepal looked no more than about 300.

The welcoming party included Sir Paul and Lady Reeves and an ebullient Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister, who in a relaxed ceremony was as ready as ever to laugh and joke.

The Queen looked fresh and crisply dressed in blue and white, despite the 19-hour flight from Kathmandu, but

with the arrival formalities quickly out of the way she and Prince Philip were whisked off to Government House to rest.

The official programme gets under way today with a walk-about in Auckland city centre.

Driving from the airport, the royal cars passed a small protest demonstration of about 25 people representing a number of groups opposing the visit, including Republicans, Maori activists and Irish nationalists.

A recent opinion poll indicates that the strength of royalist sentiment in New Zealand is waning among the

young but there is still a broad range of support for the visit.

The survey found that more than 40 per cent welcomed the idea, about 40 per cent were indifferent, while 9 per cent were opposed.

Throughout yesterday a stream of visitors made their way down to the quay where Britannia is moored.

The main features of the visit include the national Maori reception in Hastings tomorrow and the state opening of Parliament in Wellington on Wednesday. The Royal couple depart for Australia on Friday.

Speech angers Nepal opposition

From Michael Hamlyn
Kathmandu

Opposition leaders in Nepal are angered by the Queen's apparent endorsement of the royal overthrow of parliamentary democracy 25 years ago.

During her state visit last week, the Queen praised the partyless Panchayat system, developing in Nepal since the multi-party parliament was brought to an end by King Mahendra, which is set to hold its second election on May 12.

The leaders of the banned Nepali Congress Party (NCP) have questioned why the Queen paid tribute to what it sees as a slow, if not negligible, progression towards democracy.

The NCP is considering contesting the elections if, as it demands, they are held under a neutral interim government and candidates are allowed to compete under a common manifesto using a common electoral symbol.

There will almost certainly be an interim government because the term of the present one will have expired before the election and there will be few problems with common manifestos because they are not covered by the constitution and symbols are being allotted to candidates by lottery.

But Mr Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, the NCP leader and former Speaker of Parliament,

said he would not let the party go into elections "unless and until I am sure we can get an absolute majority".

Still, if parties do not contest the election, factions will. It will be clear to voters which candidates support the government of Mr Lokendra Bahadur Chand and which support the tougher, more experienced former Prime Minister Mr Surya Bahadur Thapa, who fell from power in 1983 when a group of Panchayat members opposed to his authoritarian style, suddenly found an ally in the palace.

Mr Thapa accuses Mr Chand of having no grip on politics. "The economy is

completely out of control. He is not capable of leadership".

In return, Mr Chand's supporters accuse Mr Thapa of "Walpolean" behaviour while others speak darkly of the amount of disposable funds he amassed during his three years in power.

The management of the economy will be an issue because the recent devaluation has had a marked effect on prices: an annual income of \$160 (about £114) per capita leaves Nepal the fourth or fifth least developed country in the world; and, the population growth rate has risen from 2.7 per cent to almost 3 per cent because of immigrants from India.



A small boy helping to prepare for the Communist Party congress by sweeping up snow in Red Square, Moscow.

Stage is set for Gorbachov the great reformer

From Christopher Walker
Moscow

When the 27th congress of the ruling Communist Party opens tomorrow in the Kremlin's imposing Palace of Congresses, it will be 30 years to the day since the late Nikita Khrushchev delivered his remarkable anti-Stalin speech to a closed session of 1,500 delegates attending the 20th congress.

Although some aspects of Soviet life have changed dramatically in the meantime, the congress — which now involves about 5,000 delegates — remains the ultimate authority within the party, and because of the all-pervasive links between party and government, the ultimate authority in the political system.

Despite this theoretical power, votes are traditionally unanimous and much of the procedure (most of which takes place behind closed doors) little more than rubber-stamping of decisions taken in even more secretive surroundings. Primarily, the meeting will provide a showcase for the domestic and foreign policies of Mikhail Gorbachov, who will outline them in a four-and-a-half-hour address.

Since 1956, congresses have been convened in the capital every five years, the date coinciding with the start of the new five-year plan, the lynchpin of the party's control of an economy spanning over 270 million people. This year, delegates will also be presented with an amended set of party rules and a new 15-year programme notably more realistic than the previous blueprint presented by Mr Khrushchev in 1961.

According to that programme, which was to prove of increasing embarrassment to subsequent Soviet leaders, Russia would today have become a greater industrial power than the US, travel and accommodation would be free and most countries in the world, including Britain, would have gone Communist. The 1966 model is much more ambitious.

In the costly pre-congress publicity build-up, attention has been turned on the individual delegates from the country's 15 republics. All have been selected at local level, often because of outstanding achievements in their place of work rather than for any particular political acumen.

Among them will be a Siberian farmhand who produced a record milk yield from his herd, a shipyard worker from Archangel who suggested an incentive scheme for boosting productivity and the party secretary from Polyelinsk, Number 22 in Minsk, who is

credited with securing a 13 per cent cut in diseases at local kindergartens.

What all delegates have in common is membership of the party, a distinction enjoyed by roughly 18 million Soviet citizens, or about 10 per cent of the adult population. Membership, open from the age of 18 upwards, is tightly controlled and depends on recommendation from three party veterans, who must each have served for at least five years.

Membership usually ensures rapid career advancement, and is all but essential for anyone with political ambitions. As well as conferring privileges for those who rise up the bureaucratic ladder (ranging from special food shops to superior medical treatment), it also requires obligations — such as the need to be seen adhering strictly to Mr Gorbachov's new anti-alcohol campaign.

In the heady pre-congress period, there have been unprecedented complaints in the official press about the unfair-

More pleas to join spouses in US

Moscow (Reuters) — Ten Soviet citizens married to Americans appealed to the forthcoming party congress yesterday to let them join their spouses in the US. The group said in a telegram: "We... put our hopes in you for the reunification of our families." After last November's Soviet-US summit at least nine other Soviet citizens with spouses or relatives in the US were told they could leave.

ness of these perks — which are expected to come under growing attack — and about the difficulty many citizens find in joining. Two brothers from Stavropol wrote angrily to Pravda: "In some institutions there is a waiting list for years to join the party. What are those who strive to get into such a strange queue thirsting for? Perhaps for those privileges which we are now decisively renouncing? A queue for the party is absurd. The party is not a supermarket." The party's grip over the running of the country is symbolized by the importance being attached to the congress, which although not a policy-making occasion in the Western sense, will provide a unique pointer to the direction in which the Soviet Union will be guided during the early, formative years of the Gorbachov era.

Ershad on defensive

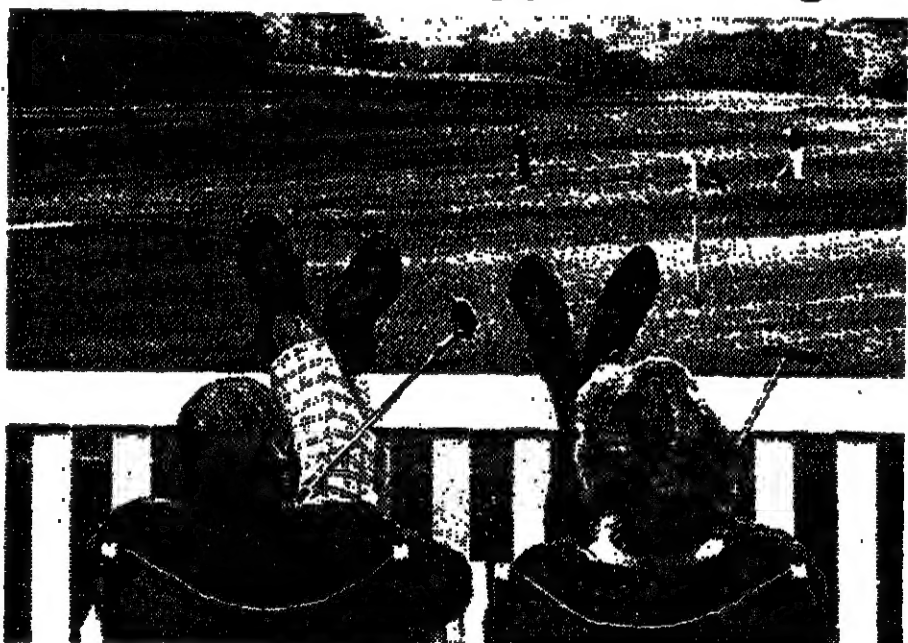
Dhaka — Army units around Dhaka were put on alert and extra police brought into the city yesterday, Interior Ministry sources said (Ahmed Fazi writes).

The military government of President Ershad was prepar-

ing to meet a new wave of protest from the opposition. Sheikh Hasina Wazed, chief of the 15-party alliance, has called for a grand rally today in the capital's northern Sher-e-Bangla Nagar District in a fresh challenge to martial law.

PROBABLY THE MOST ENJOYABLE IN INVESTMENT YOU'LL EVER MAKE.

National Savings Income Bonds give you a regular monthly income without touching your savings.



When it comes to enjoying life, an investment in National Savings Income Bonds can make all the difference. Interest is paid monthly, so you get extra money coming in regularly to spend enjoying life or simply to help pay the bills.

The difference a regular income makes. Income Bonds currently pay 12% p.a. gross. The rate paid may be changed from time to time to keep it competitive.

Interest is calculated on a day to day basis and sent direct to your home or your bank on the 5th of each month. It is paid in full and is subject to tax if you are a taxpayer.

This is what 12% p.a. earns you every month:

Investment	Average Monthly Income	Investment	Average Monthly Income	Investment	Average Monthly Income
£2,000	£20	£ 8,000	£80	£18,000	£180
£5,000	£50	£10,000	£100	£20,000	£200
£6,000	£60	£13,000	£130	£25,000	£250
£7,000	£70	£15,000	£150	£50,000	£500

(Each additional £1,000 invested produces an average of £10 a month — £120 a year. Maximum holding £50,000.)

*Interest rate correct at time of going to press.

Getting your money out. You need give only 3 months' notice to have any Bond repaid. And there will be no loss of interest if you've held your Bond for a year or more. (For details of earlier repayment, see paragraph 6 of the prospectus below.)

Invest here and now. You can be sure your investment will always provide a worthwhile income — month in, month out.

All you have to do is complete the coupon and send it with your cheque (payable to 'National Savings') to NSIB, Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool, FY3 9YP. Or ask for an application form at your Post Office.

It's probably the most enjoyable investment you'll ever make.

National Savings INCOME BONDS



APPLICATION FOR NATIONAL SAVINGS INCOME BOND

To NSIB, Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool, FY3 9YP

1 We accept the terms of the Prospectus and apply for a Bond to the value of: £ ,000

2 Initial minimum of £2,000 and multiples of £1,000 to a maximum of £50,000

3 Surname(s) Full Christian name(s) or forename(s) Birthdate

Address (including postcode)

Name of Trust (if applicable) Date of Birth (essential if under 7)

4 NAME AND ADDRESS FOR DESPATCH OF INVESTMENT CERTIFICATE (if different from above)

Name

Address

5 DIVIDENDS TO BE PAID BY CREDIT TO: (if not to a National Savings Bank or other bank account, enter name and address to which dividends should be sent)

Bank Savings Code (shown in the top right hand corner of your own cheque)

6 Signature Date

PROSPECTUS 1 October 1984

1 The Director of Savings is authorised by the Treasury to issue National Savings Income Bonds (NSIBs) to investors who are registered in the National Savings Stock Register and are subject to the regulations relating to the National Savings Stock Register for the time being in force so far as they are applicable. The prospectus and the terms and conditions of the Bonds will be sent to you by the National Savings Office.

2 The Bonds are a Government security under the National Loans Act 1968. They are registered in the National Savings Stock Register and are subject to the regulations relating to the National Savings Stock Register for the time being in force so far as they are applicable. The prospectus and the terms and conditions of the Bonds will be sent to you by the National Savings Office.

3 An investment certificate, bearing the date of purchase, will be issued in respect of each purchase.

4 HOLDING LIMITS

4.1 No person may hold either singly or jointly with any other person less than £2,000 or more than £50,000 of Bonds. Bonds are issued in multiples of £1,000. The total amount of Bonds held by a person at any one time must not exceed the maximum permitted by the regulations. The maximum permitted by the regulations is £50,000.

4.2 The Treasury may vary the maximum and minimum holding limits and the minimum and maximum periods for which Bonds may be held. Such variations will be notified in the prospectus.

5 INTEREST

5.1 Interest will be calculated on a day to day basis from the date of purchase at a rate determined by the Treasury (the Treasury rate).

5.2 Interest will be payable on the 5th day of each month. The Director of Savings may at any time vary the date on which interest is payable. Interest will be paid by cheque or by direct credit to a National Savings Bank or other bank account. The cheque will be sent to the address given in the prospectus. The direct credit will be sent to the bank account given in the prospectus.

5.3 If an investor repays the Bond, the interest will be paid to the investor. If the investor repays the Bond to the National Savings Office, the interest will be paid to the National Savings Office. If the investor repays the Bond to a third party, the interest will be paid to the third party.

5.4 The Treasury may from time to time vary the Treasury rate upon giving the investor notice.

5.5 The Treasury may from time to time vary the interest rate and the date on which interest is payable. Such variations will be notified in the prospectus.

5.6 Interest on a Bond registered in the name of a minor under seven years of age will be paid to the National Savings Office. If the minor is over seven years of age, the interest will be paid to the minor.

5.7 Interest on a Bond will be paid without deduction of income tax, but it is subject to income tax and must be included in any return of income made to the Inland Revenue.

REPAYMENT

6.1 A Bondholder may obtain repayment of a Bond at any time before redemption upon giving 3 calendar months' notice. The Bond will be repaid to the investor. The interest will be paid to the investor. The interest will be paid by cheque or by direct credit to a National Savings Bank or other bank account. The cheque will be sent to the address given in the prospectus. The direct credit will be sent to the bank account given in the prospectus.

6.2 Where an investor repays a Bond to the National Savings Office, the interest will be paid to the National Savings Office. If the investor repays the Bond to a third party, the interest will be paid to the third party.

6.3 An application for repayment of a Bond must be made in writing to the Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool, and accompanied by the investment certificate. The period of notice given by the Bondholder will be counted from the date of purchase of the Bond.

6.4 Application may be made for repayment of a Bond in an amount of £1,000 or a multiple of that sum provided that the total amount of Bonds repaid does not exceed the total amount of Bonds held by the investor. The interest will be paid to the investor. The interest will be paid by cheque or by direct credit to a National Savings Bank or other bank account. The cheque will be sent to the address given in the prospectus. The direct credit will be sent to the bank account given in the prospectus.

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Marcos is accused of making hit list to liquidate opposition

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Curtain up on a new French revolution

The next general election will probably be one of the most important in France for more than a quarter of a century. March 16, polling day, will almost certainly be a turning point in modern French history. For the first time under the Fifth Republic, France is likely to have a government whose political hue is opposed to that of its President. Some fear that this will cause a constitutional crisis. Yet rarely has an election campaign (carried on unofficially for the past couple of months) been so lacklustre.

One reason for the lack of excitement is the dearth of new ideas among the main political parties, combined with the general public's widespread scepticism that any party will find a solution for the problem that concerns them most — unemployment. Almost 2.4 million people are now unemployed, 600,000 more than in 1981 when the Socialists came to power promising to reduce their number.

The party manifestos are very similar

The most striking thing about the manifestos of the two major political formations — the Socialists on the left and the Alliance of the Gaullist Rassemblement Pour la République (RPR) and the Union Pour la Démocratie Française (UDF) on the right — is their similarity.

There is no doubt that the Socialists have shifted to the right since they came to power, but the right has also shifted to the centre, largely in reaction to the emergence of the National Front on the extreme right. Of course there are differences. The right wants to denationalize the banks, insurance companies, and large industrial groups nationalized by the Socialists. It wants to cut taxes, particularly for business and the highest-paid, by some 40 billion francs (£4 billion) a year, abolish the wealth tax imposed by the Socialists and to move faster than the left in liberalizing the economy.

On the other hand, it has undertaken to keep the Socialists' main social reforms, which it initially vehemently opposed: the fifth paid week's holiday, retirement at 60, and improvements in family benefits, social security payments, and pensions. It has agreed to keep the guaranteed minimum wage. It has no plans to reintroduce the death penalty, abolished by the Socialists, and it approves of Socialist attempts to find as many alternatives to prison as possible.

France's election campaign starts today — and for the first time in recent history, a president may have to share power with his political enemies

Both sides seem to concentrate on criticizing one another and speculating on political life after March 16. The most likely outcome is considered to be one in which Jacques Chirac, as leader of the RPR, the biggest party in the new parliament, is called upon to form a coalition with the UDF. But the President would be under no obligation to choose Chirac. He may prefer a right-wing moderate, or a Socialist, but whoever it was must be able to win a majority in the national assembly.

Even if the two main opposition parties won an absolute majority and M Chirac was appointed prime minister, it is by no means clear what would happen. Supporters of Raymond Barre may refuse to back the government, in which case new elections would have to be called. Or the new government may clash with the President on some vital issue, bringing administration to a standstill and forcing a new election. Thanks to proportional representation, this could result in a parliament of similar complexity and political stalemate.

The president could, of course, resign. But he has no desire to go down in history as the first president to be forced out of office. And Chirac has a vested interest in working with Mitterrand — he wants to use the office of prime minister to build up his prestige for the 1988 presidential election and the fight against his most dangerous rival, Raymond Barre.

The campaign posters have echoed the dearth of real issues. Immigration was expected to be one but the debate has somehow never quite got off the ground. The National Front, which has made immigration its top campaign issue, appears to have been losing support recently.

Another reason for the lack of excitement lies in the new system of proportional representation, to be used for the first time in the election. Instead of a straight fight between individual candidates in single constituencies, French voters will now be asked to choose between different lists of candidates put forward by the various parties in each of the 105 departments and overseas territories of the Republic.

The deputies will be elected in accordance with the proportion of votes obtained by their list, their position on that list, and the number of seats allocated to their department. Thus, a candidate in third place on a list in a four-seat department knows that his list will have to get about 75 per cent of the vote.

Under the new system, results can be predicted with much greater accuracy than in the past. Not only can it already be guaranteed — barring some major cataclysm — that the Socialists will lose their present majority in the National Assembly, but the names of as many as 448 of the 577 deputies in the new assembly can already be given. Some critics had feared that the new voting system would lead to a proliferation of small parties, but in fact the opposite is likely to happen. More than half the departments have four or fewer seats, which means that a party must get at least 25 per cent of the vote in order to get a single candidate elected in those departments. That is more than twice the predicted national score of either the National Front or the Communist Party.

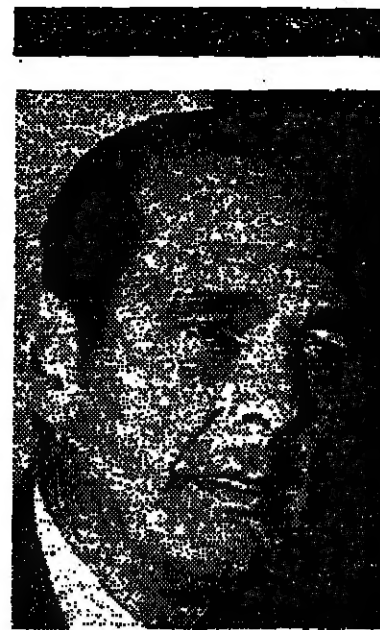
Small parties could be nearly wiped out

In only two departments, the Nord and Paris, are there a sufficient number of seats (20 or more) for a party with only 5 per cent of the vote to stand a chance of winning a seat. The little parties are likely to be virtually annihilated.

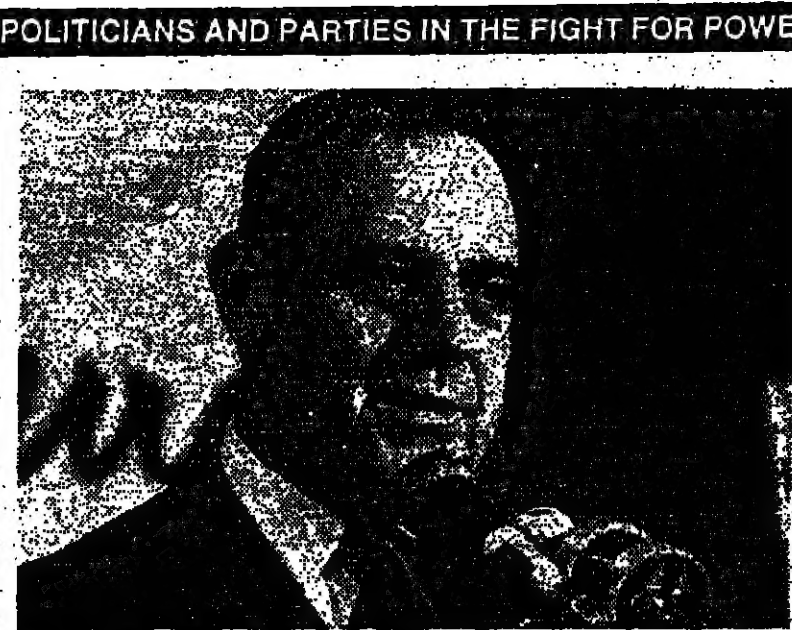
It has been estimated that a party or alliance would need about 43 per cent of the total national vote to win the 289 seats needed to form an absolute majority in the new parliament. The UDF-RPR alliance currently scores between 43 and 46 per cent in the opinion polls. It has ruled out any question of a pact with the National Front, and has said it will not form a government unless it wins an absolute majority.

The Socialists, who know they have no chance of increasing their present score of 29-31 per cent to win an absolute majority, say they are prepared to form a minority government. Some, indeed, say it should be their right to do so if they remain the largest single party in Parliament, which is possible. The Socialists have not totally ruled out a future alliance with the Communists, but say it is out of the question at present. The Communists agree. So the Socialists are blithely talking of attracting a sufficient number of individual moderates to give them the support they need to form a viable government. Quite where these individuals will come from, no one knows.

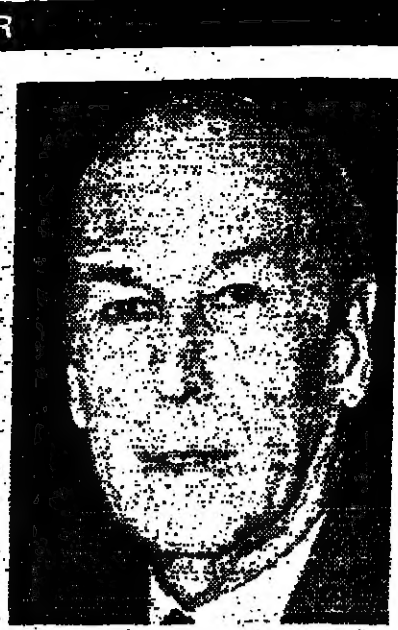
Diana Geddes



Jacques Chirac
Aged 53. Mayor of Paris. Leader of the Gaullist RPR Party. Prime minister under Giscard d'Estaing. Flamboyant, dynamic, a product of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA), but someone who often gives the impression of speaking before he thinks. Has a large and loyal personal following, but is not a good television performer. Most likely candidate as next prime minister. Has an interest in making "cohabitation" with Mitterrand work if only to do down his major rival, Raymond Barre.

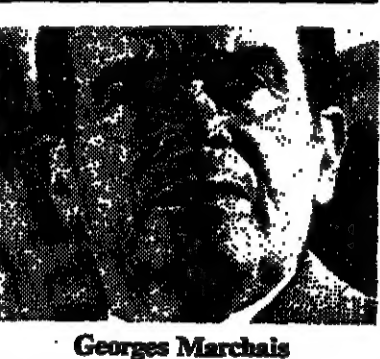


Raymond Barre
Aged 61. Prime minister under Giscard d'Estaing. Deputy for the Rhône, affiliated to the UDF group in the National Assembly. Considered one of the three main opposition leaders, although he has consistently refused to take over the leadership of any party and has declined to form his own. Aloof, ironic, and highly intelligent, this round former professor of economics has managed to leap from the very bottom of the popularity stakes in the opinion polls to the very top. He refuses to contemplate "cohabitation".



Valéry Giscard d'Estaing
Aged 60. President of France 1974-1981. Deputy for the Puy de Dôme since 1984. Sits with UDF group in parliament, but has no real party of his own. No longer has much influence either with UDF or the country. Is nevertheless considered one of the three main opposition leaders and still listened to with respect. Remains a possible candidate for the presidential elections in 1988, though his chances are thought slim. An ascetic, cold, brilliant man who has never managed to touch the hearts of the people.

RPR
Created by Jacques Chirac in 1976 out of the former Gaullist Union des Démocrates pour la République. A right-wing populist party representing a broad cross-section of society. The largest, most disciplined, and best organized of the opposition parties. Has 62 seats in the National Assembly, but is expected to share up to 309 seats with the UDF. President: Jacques Chirac. General Secretary: Jacques Toubon.

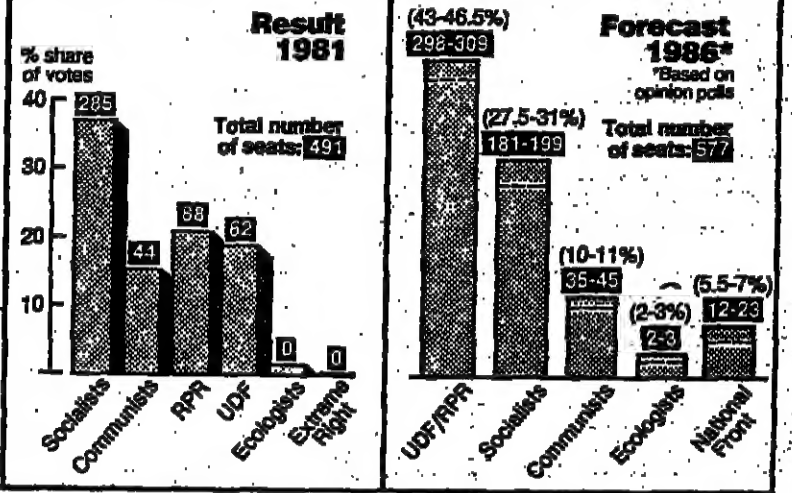


Georges Marchais
Aged 65. He has been secretary of the French Communist Party since 1972 and deputy for Val-de-Marne since 1973. In 1974 and 1981 he was an unsuccessful presidential candidate. In behind-the-scenes battles he has beaten off several attempts by the rank-and-file to remove him as party leader and replace him with someone younger, brighter, more modern and attractive. Knows how to work the party machine and play moderates off against hard-liners. He is a survivor and a fighter, but has lost much of the pugnacity and sparkle that made him a popular television figure in the 1981 election campaign.

COMMUNIST

Founded in 1920. Reigning as the largest left-wing party in France for more than 40 years, consistently getting between 20 and 25 per cent of the vote. They are now credited with only about 11 per cent of voting intentions. An attempt by members with Euro-Communist sympathies to reform and modernize the party after its severe setback in the European Parliament elections in 1984 failed. First Secretary Georges Marchais and the pro-Moscow hardliners still hold sway, although they have learnt to moderate their tone over the years. The party is vehemently opposed to "flexible" work patterns. Wants reduction in working week and time off for vocational retraining without loss of pay. Increase income tax for the wealthiest, and double wealth tax. Progressive reduction of retirement age with priority for blue-collar workers. Increase state benefits, with a guaranteed minimum of 2,500 francs (£250) a month for all unemployed. Stop influx of immigrants, but improve conditions of those already here. Possible vote for immigrants in local elections. Fight crime by fighting poverty. Retain French nuclear force, but promote progressive world disarmament. No to "Star Wars". No to European defence. No to military integration into Nato.

RPR-UDF MANIFESTO
Lift all remaining price controls immediately, and lift other restrictive economic controls as soon as possible. Denationalize progressively over the next five years the banks, insurance companies and large industrial groups nationalized by the Socialists. In the long term, denationalize all competitive public companies. Privatize two of the three state television channels. Cut taxes and levies by 40 billion francs (£4 billion) a year. Abolish

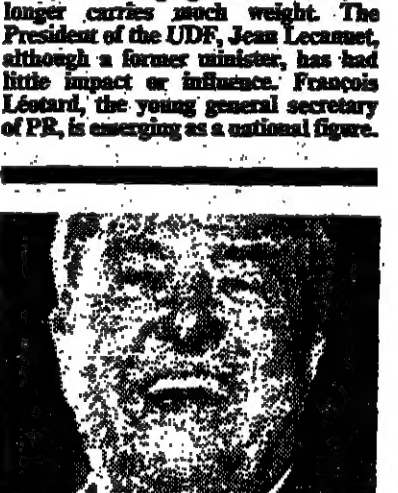


François Mitterrand
Aged 69. President of France since 1981. Former first secretary of the Socialist Party. As President, he claims he no longer belongs to any party, but has been campaigning hard for the Socialists. His personal involvement could, however, mean greater pressure on him to resign in the event of a severe Socialist defeat. He insists, however, that he has been directly elected by the people and means to serve his full seven-year term. He gives no hint of how he will behave if confronted by a right-wing government, only that he will remain "inert". His popularity, which hit a record low for any Fifth Republic president, has been steadily rising. Has a reputation for being dangerous when his back is up against a wall.

SOCIALIST

Although Socialist parties in France can date their origins back to 1893, the present Socialist Party was formed in 1971 out of a number of existing left-wing parties. Often divided within itself, the party has succeeded in hiding its differences during the present campaign and to unite itself behind its former leader and founder, François Mitterrand. Manifesto pledges to continue along the present

UDF
Loose federation of parties formed in 1978, ranging from the centre to the far right, including the Centre des Démocrates Sociaux (CDS) and the Gaullist Parti Républicain (PR). Highly volatile, divided in its allegiance, and without any clear leader. Most outgoing CDS deputies and a number of PR deputies support Raymond Barre, but he has consistently refused to take leadership of a party. Former President Giscard d'Estaing, once the leading light in the UDF, no longer carries much weight. The President of the UDF, Jean Lecanuet, although a former minister, has had little impact or influence. François Léotard, the young general secretary of PR, is emerging as a national figure.



Jean-Marie Le Pen
Aged 57. President of the National Front. A former paratrooper, son of a Breton fisherman. Has degrees in law and political science. Long career on the far-right margins of politics. His clean-cut good looks, sense of humour, and energy attract a cross-section of conservative French society. He denies he is a racist and has won every libel case against those who made that charge. National Front presidential candidate in 1974, winning 10.9 per cent of the vote. Elected to the European parliament in 1984. He confidently predicts a National Front poll of around 15 per cent with 50 to 100 seats. The party has no seats at the moment.

NATIONAL FRONT

Founded in 1972 by Jean-Marie Le Pen, now party president. Obtained less than 2 per cent of the vote until the rise in racism in France at the time of the 1983 economic crisis. In the 1984 European elections got 10.9 per cent of the vote, almost level with the Communists. Manifesto promises to abolish all restraints on the economy, reduce union power and promote individual contracts between employer and employee. Progressively replace income tax by indirect taxation. Replace state social security system as far as possible by private insurance schemes. Give priority of jobs to French nationals. Expel immigrants who lose their jobs or who are found guilty of crimes. No family and social security benefits for immigrants. No automatic French nationality for those from France's former North African colonies. Bring back death penalty. Stricter discipline in prisons. No remission on prison sentences. Increase spending on national and civil defence. Abolish conscription.

Disabled needn't mean helpless

It's astonishing, how quite a simple aid can often free a disabled person from dependence on others and allow them to lead an active, independent, fuller life.

Dressing with one hand (even tying a shoelace) can be made quite easy. People with impaired speech and movement can communicate readily, or summon help, without making a sound. Countless aids, some simple, some hi-tech, are helping disabled people to move, hear, see, cook, work and play — living a normal life — in ways they had never dreamed possible. And all because the Disabled Living Foundation is seeking out ways to help them and is passing this information on.

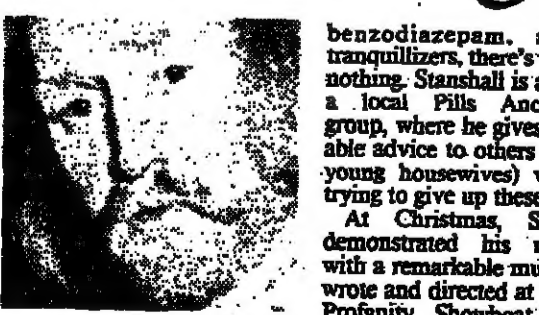
Please help to keep this vital service going. Your donation, or your legacy, will mean a fuller life for so many people.

And if you are disabled, or know someone else who is, it could be worth getting in touch with the Foundation to see what aids may be available. It could be a new beginning!

Disabled Living Foundation
Practical help in daily living for all disabled people
Room 150, 380/384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU.
Tel. 01-289 6111.

Still life in the old Dog

Emerging from a pill strewn lost weekend of 14 years' duration, the pop humorist Vivian Stanshall (right) is getting back to abnormal



"I'm now a tourist in life as well as in London. I can enjoy myself again", Vivian Stanshall says as he demolishes a generous plateful of Viennese and salt beef in a North London restaurant. The former ringleader of the Bonzo Dog Band and one-time purveyor of "art with a capital F" is in London on a rare visit from Bristol Docks, where he lives on an old Sunderland coaster, the Thekla, which has been turned into a rock and jazz venue, the Old Profanity Showboat. It is almost a year since he finally gave up drink and what would have been a terminal addiction to tranquilizers. Now he is evangelical in his loathing and distrust of the pills, and the appalling medical ignorance of the cost of withdrawal. The man who wrote such comic classics as "Intro and Outro", "Can Blue Men Sing the Whites?" and "My Pink Half of the Drankpipe" sounds now like a walking pharmacopoeia as he describes the effects of 14 years' reliance on tranquilizers. "I've always been an excit-

able and anxious workaholic, and one day in 1971 I collapsed on the floor and woke up to find I'd been prescribed pills to calm me down. At first it was 30 milligrams a day, but within a short time I found I could not function without them. At the time I wholly believed in doctors and by 1976 I was taking between 200 and 300 milligrams of Valium and Librium a day. Then I'd have the booze to accelerate the effect of the pills. In the early 1980s, Stanshall was living on a boat in Chertsey with his second wife, Pamela Longfellow, a tough part-Iraqi-Californian, who had some success in getting him to work again. But

CONCISE CROSSWORD (NO 883)

ACROSS
1 Fen (5)
4 Canvas (7)
8 Pictorial story (5)
9 Padded seat (7)
10 Road barrier (8)
11 Bow (4)
13 Rough (11)
17 Bond (4)
18 Baker's dozen (8)
21 Strict moralist (7)
22 Maggot (5)
23 Not active (7)
24 Turn aside (5)

DOWN
1 Tiny (6)
2 Nomad (5)
3 Chopper airport (8)
4 Securities market (5,8)
5 Great deal (4)
6 Dense (7)
7 Twist confusingly (6)
12 Rain canopy (8)
14 Egyptian paper (7)
15 Lavish (4,2)
16 Unimpaired (6)
19 Weird (5)
20 Needle case (4) and

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Parallel voices amid Africa's discord

In a country where women, both white and black, think of themselves as having little role to play outside the home, a remarkable number have actively opposed apartheid. The names of two women, operating from different sides of the colour bar, stand out — Helen Suzman, the veteran white opposition

MP, and Winnie Mandela, the wife of the jailed African National Congress (ANC) leader, Nelson Mandela. In exclusive interviews with Michael Hornsby, they talk about each other, their political differences, and a future in which they might even belong to the same party.



Over the colour bar: Helen Suzman (left) and Winnie Mandela with a bedspread in African National Congress colours which was given to Mrs Mandela by African congressmen soon after a similar bedspread had been confiscated by Brandtfort prison officers. The two women have not met since

BIOGRAPHIES

Mandela
Nomsa "she who strives"
Winnie Mandela was born in 1934 at Bizana in Pondoland, part of the Xhosa-speaking Transkei, the daughter of a teacher. She married Nelson Mandela in 1958. Her elder by 15 years, he was already a member of the national executive of the African National Congress (ANC). She herself was active in the organization until it was banned in 1960. In 1964 her husband was convicted of sabotage and sentenced to life imprisonment. With her husband in jail, she has worked tirelessly, despite constant police harassment, to keep his name alive. Since 1976 she has been a "banned" person, subject to restrictions on her movements. She was held in solitary confinement for 17 months in 1982-70.

Suzman
Helen Suzman has been a member of the South African Parliament for 32 years, representing the Johannesburg constituency of Houghton. For 13 years she was the only anti-apartheid voice in Parliament. Born on November 7, 1917, just outside Johannesburg, Suzman was the second daughter of Samuel and Frieda Gavronsky, Jewish immigrants from Lithuania. She was first returned to Parliament in April, 1953, as a member of the United Party. Suzman and a small group of other United Party MPs broke away to form the Progressive Party, which became the official opposition. She has been a relentless critic of the government's security legislation, conditions in its prisons and abuses of human rights.

FOOTNOTES

1. The Alcatraz-style prison on an island in Table Bay.
2. President P. W. Botha, Head of State.
3. Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, Leader of the Progressive Federal Party, the main Opposition in the House of Assembly, from 1978 until February 7 of this year, when he resigned.
4. Umkhonto We Sizwe (Zulu for "Spear of the Nation") is the military arm of the African National Congress.
5. The United Democratic Front, launched in 1983, is a loose coalition of more than 600 anti-apartheid groups.
6. Chief Leabua Jonathan, former prime minister of Lesotho, replaced last month by a military council.
7. At his trial Mandela said he regarded himself "in the first place as an African patriot". He was not a communist.
8. The Freedom Charter was approved by a Congress of the People in 1955 and adopted by the ANC as its manifesto.
9. Oliver Tambo is the acting President of the ANC.

How long have I known Helen? Oh heavens, for years. I admire her terribly. She is one of the few very well-meaning white South Africans. Her struggle has been just and honest. Many of her views are shared by all of us. For a long time she was a lone voice in white South Africa, in the white Parliament, one of the few voices that expressed to some extent our views. I remember particularly that she visited my husband and other political prisoners on Robben Island during those early years when conditions were extremely difficult for them in prison. Together with the Red Cross, she played a major role in getting their conditions improved. She has really been the conscience of white South Africa. Her fight against apartheid has been a very just fight and a very honourable one. Within the limits set by the South African racist regime, she has played a very valuable role, and I don't think she has now reached the limits of what she as a white South African can do to fight apartheid from within the system.

It is, of course, up to her to decide whether the time has come to leave Parliament. She must be free to choose her own political path. But, personally, I cannot see any room any more for a purely white opposition to racist Pretoria. The Botha regime has successfully destroyed the role of a white (Liberal) opposition. That has been confirmed by the resignation of Van Zyl Slabbert. He was quite right in believing that he was getting nowhere.

Helen may not like to admit it publicly, but the fact is that there is only one opposition to a racist South Africa and that is the African National Congress. Pretoria is still talking about reforming apartheid. We have never fought for a reformed apartheid regime. We are not fighting for a glorified apartheid regime. Our fight is for the total abolition of apartheid. We no longer see any role for gradualism, because Pretoria has told us in so many words that it is not prepared to end apartheid even by gradual, negotiated change. Pretoria doesn't speak that kind of language.

That doesn't mean there is no role for liberal whites opposed to the government. We still believe we can play a very meaningful role together. Our doors have always been open to people like Helen Suzman and Slabbert. No one is

asking them to join Umkhonto We Sizwe or the African National Congress while it is still banned. But they could join the United Democratic Front. In the end, all the democratic forces of the country will have to unite to bring down the racist regime in Pretoria.

I have always disagreed with Helen's opposition to economic sanctions. But she is not in the dog-house (loud laugh). Our disagreements do not affect our relationship at all. I understand that she is speaking from a white perspective. But we are rather sick and tired of hearing from whites that we are the ones who would suffer (from sanctions) as if we are not already suffering. We are saying that we want to suffer once and for all and shorten our pain, and sanctions are the only peaceful course that is open to us to bring the government to its knees. South Africa itself has shown by its treatment of Lesotho, its strangling of poor little Lesotho, what sanctions can do. They brought down Leabua in a week. We are asking the international community to do exactly the same thing to South Africa as South Africa did to Lesotho.

It is nonsensical speculation to say that my husband's views have changed in prison or that he has become a communist. He remains a nationalist, and he remains committed to the oppressed people of his country. His views are identical with those he expressed and expounded in his speech at his trial in 1964. I don't know what a Communist is in South Africa. The government calls all its opponents communists. Mandela is totally committed to the views expressed in the Freedom Charter. He believes in a future South Africa which is for all, a constitution that embodies everyone irrespective of colour.

Helen says she does not know whether Mandela would still have the support of the radicalized young blacks of today. The answer to that lies in the fact that to this day children who were not born when he went into prison sing his name and eulogize the man. His name is synonymous with the liberation of the oppressed people of this country. Personally, I am not interested in political office. I am just part and parcel of the struggle of the people, and I will continue to play my own little role which I consider is an honour for me. I have no ambitions beyond that.

You know, it's very difficult to remember when I first met Winnie. I think I probably made contact with her the first time I visited her husband, Nelson, on Robben Island, and that would have been back in 1967. She is a woman of great personal charm and vivacity. She's very articulate and extremely good-looking. As a politician, she's damned shrewd. She plays her cards very well, and knows how to handle the media. She always gives them their money's worth either in quotable quotes or just by looking ravishing. And of course, the government has played right into her hands by its ludicrous harassment of her.

I think the way she has weathered the very hard life of having her husband locked up all these years shows a lot of guts. She has also retained a remarkable sense of humour. There is no trace of self-pity or anti-white racism in her. She takes people as people and either likes them or not, regardless of race. She's a formidable enemy, and a very warm friend. She's no shrinking violet, and even if Nelson were to be freed, I don't think she'd be content to play the little woman, if I have judged her correctly.

On one occasion when I visited Winnie in Brandfort the special branch descended on us. We sat and chatted while these big, burly fellows went round confiscating papers and taking books off the shelves. They ended up by taking a black, green and yellow bedspread off the bed in her room. I said: "What on earth are you taking that for?" The police just looked at me. Then I said, "Ah, I see now, ANC (African National Congress) colours, this is a subversive bedspread." Winnie and I had a good laugh over that.

That was two or three years ago. Since then I have only been in contact with her by phone and letter, or through her lawyer. She hasn't confirmed it to me personally, but I think I may be in the dog-house because I haven't taken the line of calling for international economic sanctions. Sanctions would hurt all of us, black and white, as well as neighbouring countries. It is as if for Winnie to say blacks are prepared to suffer for liberation would be threatening by sanctions. She's also deluded in thinking that sanctions would be a short, sharp campaign, leading to the collapse of the government. It wouldn't be like that. It would be a long war of attrition during which

the government would withdraw into its laager and its resistance to change would be stiffened, not weakened. Economic sanctions imposed from within the country by the growing power of black trade unions make much more sense to me. But the unions need to build up their strength and organization first.

Winnie says I should follow Slabbert's example and leave Parliament. I can't agree. It would be tragic if the opposition in Parliament consisted only of right-wing elements who would do their best to stop the government's already filtering racial reforms in their tracks. Like it or not, political power in this country is still in white hands and Parliament is at present the only place where changes can be turned into legislation and the government questioned and held to account. The role of the extra-parliamentary opposition is very important, and

I see it as complimentary to, and not in conflict with, what I am doing. Our objectives may not be identical in every respect, but they are certainly identical in wanting to get rid of apartheid.

I have little doubt that the ANC has the support of the majority of blacks. The government has got to take the plunge and release Mandela and the other political prisoners and unban the ANC and negotiate with it. I don't pretend it wouldn't be a gamble. A lot would depend on whether the ANC, given freedom to operate legally, would go for non-violent methods. The government would also have to make big concessions, dismantle apartheid and be prepared to discuss the transfer of political power. That's not going to be easy.

Personally, I would have no problems in sitting round a negotiating table with people like Winnie and Nelson. Obviously,

whether we could work in the same party would depend on whether we could agree on the same policies. It is hard to tell what sort of press freedom and free association, what degree of economic free enterprise, and so on, would be allowed under an ANC government. The present leaders, like Oliver Tambo and, as far as I know, Mandela, say they want these things, but whether the oldtime black nationalists would still be calling the shots then is another matter. One doesn't know how far the really radical elements have gone beyond black nationalism, and want a black marxist government, with no element of a free society. I don't believe that either Winnie or Nelson favour that kind of extremism. They might have to in order to retain leadership, but I don't think that would be their natural instinct. We shall have to see.

Too good to be true

"You finish this book feeling better...You believe you can do it too", reads a review in *Punch* of Lee Iacocca's autobiography. Speak for yourself, *Punch*. I know perfectly well that I would only have to get three pages into Mr Iacocca's book before I began to feel very much worse. Far from being convinced that I, like Mr I, could save an ailing motor company and be in the running for President of the United States, I was left with the horrible conviction that I am the sort of inadequate who couldn't find her way out of a paper bag.

That is the trouble with autobiographies — everyone who writes one seems to have blessings showered upon them from the cradle to the grave. Even if they grow up in slums, their parents are wildly supportive and take in washing so that their baby can finish high school. They either marry their childhood sweetheart and live happily ever after, or have one of those mutually regretful divorces where both sides agree that it's for the best and vow to remain friends for ever. People in autobiographies never admit to having rows over who is to retain custody of the best dinner-service or wishing that their ex-husband would lose all his hair — both of which are common practice in real life.

When autobiographers get ill, their sickness is of a thrillingly dramatic nature providing untepid cliff-hangers. "The doctors said I would never recover but I knew that I had to or I'd be letting Marjorie and the kids down", so that they become resulting in them becoming far, far better people than they were before. Common ailments like corns, indigestion and prostate trouble seem to pass them by.

Their children are always good-looking, talented and affectionate with maybe a touch of youthful high-spirits during adolescence. "We still laugh at the time Junior backed his car into a hamburger joint right after the Senior Prom but Betty Sue and I talked it over and decided to buy the kid a Rolls Royce for his 17th birthday and were thrilled to see that being held responsible for his own possessions made him much more careful."

Outside of autobiographies, I don't know one successful person who has reached the



PENNY PERRICK

position where he is today without a certain amount of skulduggery and backstabbing. But autobiographers never have to learn how to make enemies and destroy people. Generous-minded colleagues who know a great talent when they see it clear a path so that Our Hero can take over the role of Hamlet at and five minutes notice/take command of a secret military operation/take over the chairmanship of International United Combined Trading Limited.

The number one problem with autobiographies is that the authors of them manage to have everything: wonderful heart-warming relationships with their parents, spouses and children, the friendly co-operation of their colleagues, and a close circle of friends, some of whom go back to the time when they all did a paper-dance together as skinny four-year-olds.

The questions one wants answered is how, if they stay up every night planning take-over bids and spend every day zooming around the country in their private jet, do they have all the wonderful, heart-warming relationships.

In the middle of most autobiographies is a thick wodge of photographs in which no one ever has the sun in their eyes, a ladder in their stocking or a frown on their face. How is this? Do autobiographers hire Lord Snowdon at an early stage in their careers to take the family snapshots? There are two reasons why I could never write my autobiography: the first is that I couldn't afford the libel bills and the second is

that my family photograph album is a lengthy record of yelling babies, slipping bras, uncombed hair and honeymoon couples who have quite obviously not been on speaking terms for a considerable length of time.

I think my attitude towards the self-confessedly successful is perfectly normal. Like everyone else, I just want them to pay the price of fame. I should like them to come home one evening shouting, "Honey, I just made a million, squillion smackerels on the Consolidated Amalgamated deal", when their eyes fall on a note informing them that Honey has run off to New Mexico with her hairdresser.

In fact, I shouldn't be surprised if their lives do have a few little hiccups here and there but to learn about them, we usually have to wait for a biography — the unauthorized version.

My hotel room in Paris had no television, shoe-cleaning kit or coffee-making equipment. Instead it had a brass bedstead on a bed that encouraged friendly relations to break out. Every available surface was covered in den-of-iniquity red plush and swagged, draped and gilded within an inch of its life. The only view was of pigeons on the roof-top across the street getting up to no good. This also seemed to add to the romance. It would be difficult to find such a room in a London hotel. Luxury there is considered to be a king-size bed, a television with remote control to watch while you are in it and masses of gleaming storage-space painted in anti-septic-looking white. To spot the difference between the English and the French you need look no further than to what each nation considers to be de-huxe sleeping arrangements.

I cannot think how I could have mistaken Noel Coward's Nina from Argentina for somebody completely different called Lola, as I did in last week's column. But I did and several readers have put me right and taken the trouble to write out the complete lyric in its various versions, which I am now committing to memory. I am also going back to the Master's song-book to check that it really was *Alice* who was at it again, before I cause any more confusions.

TALKBACK

From: Mrs Barbara Peters, St Peter Port, Guernsey

I read Caroline Moorehead's article ("When life begins at 40", 12 February) with interest, some amusement and profound relief that I did not read it some 21 years ago. It was then, at the age of 41, I gave birth to my first child after five years of marriage. My pregnancy was perfectly normal, with no sickness, morning or otherwise.

Perhaps the successful result can be attributed to the following: a doctor who was sensible enough to assure me that I was as fit as the average girl of 20; no radical change in habits; a grandmother who had her first child at 41 and a mother who had my youngest sister just before her 42nd birthday.

I have no doubt that there are many women whose experience of pregnancy in their mature years has been equally uneventful and perhaps if the experts stopped treating us as geriatric problems, providing the mother is healthy, it would be a great deal better.

Older parents tend to be more stable, patient and, being far enough away from their own childhood to be objective, more understanding of the frames of growing up. Our daughter, a bright healthy 21-year-old at University borrows her father's and my clothes, my make-up and jewellery and does not consider that, in their 60s, her parents are beyond redemption.

From: Lene Orchard, Burkes Road, Buckinghamshire

Although full of sympathy with women who want to have the best of both worlds by devoting their younger years to career building and deferring babies till they are 40 plus, I feel some reservation about this option.

When you are 40, you actually feel young, so the thought of a first baby may seem entirely reasonable. However, 10-15 years later on the picture looks different. Coping with schoolchildren turning into teenagers at an age when the mother may feel less than 100% herself, may not be the best tonic in the world. Not to speak of the financial strains of putting children through university when you are about to retire

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THE TIMES DIARY

Untrue to type

Labour inquirers looking into Tony Mulhearn's future in the party may be interested to learn that his solidarity with the far left is only skin deep. Mulhearn's paymaster is none other than Rupert Murdoch. Liverpool's controversial council leader works for printers Eric Bembrose, a wholly owned subsidiary of Murdoch's News International. "Tony is a composer, and works on the News of the World colour supplement," said a colleague. "So what?" said Mulhearn. "You've got to work for someone. Anyway I'm not speaking to *The Times*, and I suggest you put the phone down before things get unpleasant." Meanwhile Liverpool council, at Mulhearn's behest, has ordered its 31,000 workers not to speak to the Liverpool *Post* and *Echo* newspapers because 83 of their printers were recently made redundant. Solidarity — or could it have something to do with Mulhearn's analysis of the *Echo*'s leaders? Between October and November last year only two out of 37 acknowledged the city's "need" for more government cash.

Brittanalysis

A reader has unearthed an article of Leon Brittan's *How the Tories Can Win*, in a dusty copy of *The Illustrated London News* of January 18, 1969 (when H. Wilson was at No 10). Talk about *plus ça change*. Brittan expounds: "As governments approach the end of their term of office there seems to be a tendency, irrespective of party, for administrative bungles to occur with increasing frequency. If the opposition can spot these at an early stage and coolly but ruthlessly expose them in the House of Commons, this can have a devastating effect on the morale of a tired government and its supporters." He also says: "The one thing that puts the electorate off a political party more than any other is the spectacle of it being torn by internal strife... This danger now faces the Tories."

Open book

Talking about *plus ça change*, another reader thinks that this H. E. Chapman novel, which has just come across, must be



essential reading for all Westland addicts: unlike the real thing, it carries the disclaimer: "This story, its plot, incidents, characters and dialogue is FICTION from beginning to end."

Shown the door

A spot of spice this morning for the crusty colonels at the East India Club in St James's (whose members include one D. Thatcher): Michael Dickson, who has been a regular guest at the club for the past 10 years, has been banned by its chairman, Commander Whalley. Yesterday Dickson told me of his felony: he was recently named as adviser to the club's ex-porter, Samuel Parks, who today lodges a claim for unfair dismissal. When Parks refused a small sum of money to withdraw, then a much larger sum, Dickson stuck his neck out and announced that the porter would not be "bought off."



BARRY FANTONI
"Evening, Norman. Large take-over and soda"

Hit parade

Elton John took Watford to Wembley. Now Rick Wakeman, star of a thousand meaningful songs, is striving to do the same for Camberley Town of the Vauxhall-Opel League (division two south), of which he is chairman. Camberley are due to play Halesowen Town of the West Midlands League in the quarter-final of the FA Vase — the first time they have got so far in the competition. Wakeman has already gone one better than Elton John — he has actually played at Wembley, in a charity warm-up to the final of the Freight Rover Trophy last season.

PHS

Thatcher's new tax tactics

by Sarah Hogg

Mrs Thatcher's favourite new example of the nurse who pays too much tax is the clearest indication yet of a change of income tax policy in next month's Budget. The big clue lies in the wage quoted by the Prime Minister — £140 a week. At this level, Mrs Thatcher's tax-burdened nurse would benefit less from the government's usual method of cutting income tax — raising the threshold — than from a straightforward cut in the 30 per cent basic rate.

After slicing 3p off the basic rate of income tax in 1979, the government has since spent all its free cash on increases in personal allowances. These have risen 15 per cent more than inflation since this government came to power. The same money could have been spent cutting the basic tax rate to 26.5 per cent. But for years ministers preached the virtues of higher allowances, as a way of helping the poor by "taking them out of tax". Backbenchers were convinced. Now Mrs Thatcher is having difficulty persuading them of the virtues of lower rates.

An increase in tax allowances is the easiest tax cut. It can be done in conveniently small slices. The basic rate cannot sensibly be reduced by less than 1p at a time, and this costs £1.2 billion a year in lost revenue. But personal allowances can be raised in £10 steps — each costing only £74 million a year in lost revenue. Allowances have to be increased every year, in any case, if their real value is not to be eroded by inflation; the necessary increase this year is £1.30 for a single person, £200 for a

married man. Quite a small real increase on top of that looks misleadingly generous.

An increase in allowances attracts political support mainly because it is supposed to give most benefit to the poorest taxpayers. In fact, it actually gives most to the best-off. An increase in the basic allowance shunts up each higher-rate threshold too: so a taxpayer facing a 60 per cent marginal rate gains exactly twice as much as a basic-rate taxpayer.

This certainly is not in tune with Mrs Thatcher's latest theme: that it is the bottom half of taxpayers who need help, but it is a problem rather easily dealt with. If the width of the basic-rate tax band is shortened by the same amount that allowances are increased, every taxpayer gains the same cash benefit — which means that the poorest taxpayers get the largest percentage cut in their total tax bills.

A raising of allowances is commonly supposed to lessen the "poverty trap". In fact, that too is a misconception. The "poverty trap" catches those low-paid family men who find that any increase in earnings is virtually wiped out by the consequent loss of means-tested benefits, combined with an increase in their income tax bills. In other words, they face "marginal tax rates" that are sometimes over 100 per cent.

The trouble is that most of these family breadwinners are clustered at income levels above the point to which the Chancellor could

hope to raise thresholds. So those "taken out of tax" by a general increase in allowances tend to be part-time working wives and pensioners.

These absurd "marginal tax rates" are in part the product of Britain's exceptionally high starting rate of tax. Most other tax systems begin well below 30 per cent; hence the growing support for a cut in the basic rate. The trouble, again, is that the kind of reductions the Chancellor could afford would not make much difference to the depth of the poverty trap. It still might be the Chancellor's best bet.

Cutting the basic rate is an even more expensive way of helping the very poorest than raising allowances, because it gives more cash to the better-paid. Compare, for example, the effects of a penny cut in the basic rate with a 5 per cent increase in allowances, as calculated by the Institute for Fiscal Studies. These would cost the Chancellor roughly the same.

If allowances were increased, all those still in the basic-rate tax net would gain the same: close on £1 a week for married men, 65p for a single person or married woman. If the rate were cut, those at the bottom of the tax scale would gain hardly anything. At £20,000 a year or more, taxpayers would receive the maximum benefit: over £3 a week.

The clue to Mrs Thatcher's strategy, however, is that taxpayers on quite modest levels of income would still do better from

a cut in the basic rate of tax than from an increase in allowances. For single people, the balance of advantage shifts away from thresholds at about £106 a week; even for a married man, basic-rate cuts are better if his income reaches £166 a week. And these middle-of-the-tax-road groups begin to look very much like Mrs Thatcher's new priority.

There is one final clue. The paradox of the income tax system is that the more allowances are increased, the fewer people pay tax — and so less is then lost by reducing the rate at which they pay it. Equally, the more the rate of income tax is reduced, the less the government receives on every pound of taxable income — and so the loss from making it tax-free is proportionately lower.

Now the Chancellor wants, eventually, to make a huge increase in the tax allowances of one group: those married men with non-working wives. He can do this by introducing "transferable allowances" for husbands and wives, so that a sole breadwinner would get, in effect, two allowances. Such a change, to be outlined in the Chancellor's green paper on tax, will have to wait for the Inland Revenue's new computers.

In the meantime, the Chancellor can cut its eventual cost by reducing the basic rate of tax. If he were to achieve that old government aim of a 25 per cent basic rate, any increase in allowances would cost 15 per cent less than it does today.

The author is Economics Editor of *The Times*.

Lawrence Freedman on Western Europe's nuclear missile dilemmas

If there is one thing that worries West European governments more than US-Soviet confrontation, it is US-Soviet co-operation. After years of pleading with the Reagan administration for a more positive stance on arms control as an excellent means of improving East-West relations and reassuring public opinion, they are now having to think through the implications of possible agreements.

The main European concern stems from the fact that Mikhail Gorbachev has been so mischievous as to embrace a concept long associated with President Reagan — the "zero option".

It was proposed by Reagan in November 1981 as the opening American bid in the talks on Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF), then about to start in Geneva. The proposal was simple. Nato would not deploy cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe if the Soviet Union removed all its missiles of comparable range — of which the most notorious was the triple-warhead SS-20.

The virtue of the proposal was its popular appeal. It picked up the slogan of the then ascendant anti-nuclear movement (no cruise, no SS-20). The West European governments endorsed the zero option, and some even claimed credit for it. Nevertheless, they were also aware of two important problems.

The first was that the zero option actually contradicted the original rationale for Nato's missile programme. According to the doctrine of flexible response, the US nuclear arsenal must be closely coupled to the defence of Western Europe, and the Soviet Union will be deterred from aggression so long as there is a substantial risk of conventional war leading to nuclear strikes. The American commitment would be reinforced by missiles of the necessary range actually based in Europe.

The second problem was that the zero option was clearly one-sided, given the balance of forces at the time. Hundreds of deployed Soviet warheads would be removed in return for abandoning Nato plans that might not even be implemented because of a lack of popular support.

The evident non-negotiability of the zero option undermined its credibility as an exercise in arms control. This did, however, have the advantage of reducing the risk posed to Nato doctrine. The integrity of "flexible response" was therefore dependent on the Soviet Union rejecting Reagan's offer. This it duly did.

The Soviet view was that there



What options when Gorbachov zeros in?

was already a nuclear balance in Europe which would be disrupted by any new Nato missiles. When the first US missiles arrived late in 1983, it claimed that there was no longer any basis for negotiation and left the talks.

When negotiations resumed in 1985 it seemed clear the any agreement would now require the Soviet Union to sanction some Nato missiles. This was confirmed in the burst of arms-control activity in the lead-up to last November's Reagan-Gorbachov summit. Both agreed that US numbers would be kept to 140 missile-launchers (the number for cruise and Pershing in place at the end of December).

The question was, how many SS-20s? The Soviet Union argued that it was necessary to take British and French missiles into account. But then on January 15 Gorbachov announced to the surprise of the West European governments that the Soviet Union now favoured the "elimination" of Intermediate Nuclear Forces in the "European zone". He also no longer expected

compensation for the British and French forces — only that those forces be frozen at current levels and not (referring to Britain) replenished by missiles from the United States.

It appears that Soviet calculations have been transformed by the very success of the Nato programme. The Soviet missile build-up is now as substantial as that of the Soviet Union. If, as Nato doctrine would have us believe, cruise and Pershing matter more to the alliance than do SS-20s to the Soviet Union, then the zero option has become rather attractive to Moscow.

So the West European governments suddenly found themselves in an embarrassing position. Washington remained wedded to the zero option. Having proposed it in the first place, it could not reject it simply because of Soviet acceptance. This acceptance could be taken as a vindication of Reagan's strategy of building weapons now to disarm later.

West European concern, conveyed to Ambassador Paul Nitze during recent consultations, ir-

ritated American officials. After years of being berated by allies for not taking arms control seriously, the Reagan administration was being accused of taking it too seriously.

When the US response to Gorbachov's proposal is announced this week some allied concerns will be taken into account. The British and French reluctance to compromise the modernization of their nuclear forces will be reflected in a rejection of the idea that they be frozen. The Japanese object to the Soviet refusal to reduce missiles facing the Far East, which were covered in the original American zero option. The US will insist on at least a 50 per cent cut. The Germans have drawn attention to the Soviet short-range missiles brought forward into East Germany and Czechoslovakia in response to Pershing.

The main question is whether the Reagan administration will accept the "elimination of intermediate nuclear forces in the European zone". The alternative will be to accept global ceilings which would allow the US to keep missiles in Europe so long as the Soviet Union left them in Asia. If the zero option is re-embraced by the Reagan administration, the West European governments will have no choice but to applaud — and then to turn again to the strategic problem that cruise and Pershing missiles were supposed to solve.

The author is professor of war studies, King's College, London.

The capitalist plague comes to Russia

Moscow When delegates to the 27th Communist Party congress gather this week to approve Mikhail Gorbachov's sweeping plans to modernize the Soviet economy, the nation will be faced with the spectre of unemployment — albeit by another name — for the first time since the official declaration in October 1930 that the problem had been eliminated.

The prospect was raised publicly in January when Professor Vladimir Kostakov, a leading Soviet economist and deputy director of the research institute run by the State Planning Committee, predicted that the blueprint for streamlining the economy could make between 13 and 19 million workers in industry temporarily out of work by the year 2000.

In an article which caused considerable concern to the party establishment, the professor doubted whether jobs could be found in the service industries for all those laid off. "Some of those who are discharged will find employment in modernized shop floors... but only some," he wrote. "Judging by the results of his work, one worker will indeed replace several of today's ones. Therefore, inevitable redundancy lies ahead."

Sensationalist treatment of the article in the western media (particularly in France) prompted an angry response from the official news agency, Tass, which talked of slander and "an anti-Soviet campaign intended to make the French doubt the undoubted achievements of real socialism."

Because western media queues are the stock-in-trade of Kremlin propagandists, who emphasize that the Soviet constitution guarantees full employment as a fundamental right, the debate touched one of the rawest nerves in the new Soviet leadership. Eyebrows were also raised over the professor's disclosure that thousands of agricultural officials, made redundant by a recent ministerial reorganization, had been offered full pay for three months if unable to find new jobs.

"Whatever the official explanation might be, that sounds to me very much like the unemployment pay that you receive in the West," remarked one office worker, who had visited London as a student. A second article by Professor Kostakov apparently intended to allay the fears raised by the first, appeared soon after in *Sovetskaya Kultura*.

This time, the professor argued that redundancies might not be necessary if certain conditions

were met. These included earlier retirement, more full-time as opposed to part-time students, longer paid maternity leave and expansion of the leisure and cultural sectors of the economy.

Showing signs of a man who had been given a talking-to by his superiors, Professor Kostakov concluded in reference to redundancy: "The psychology of an unemployed person who will gladly take any job for the sake of a crumb of bread will always be deeply alien in the Soviet Union." However, the topic has refused to lie down. It seems likely to dominate every analysis of Gorbachov's chances of modernizing a society which in some respects (but not armaments) is so technologically backward that the wooden abacus remains the main means of calculation in most Soviet shops.

One weekly Moscow paper called on Alexander Davydov of the Central Council of Trade Unions to explain how the several thousand officials made redundant in the agricultural shake-up were being found other jobs. "The country still lacks the necessary number of agronomists, veterinary surgeons, civil engineers and economists. In short, no one will be left on the street," he wrote. But that explanation is unlikely to

give comfort to a sacked, middle-aged clerk with few skills.

Another leading trade unionist, Vitaly Provotorov, was questioned at a press conference about the consequences of Gorbachov's modernization plans. He replied that on the basis of existing legislation, workers made redundant could learn new skills free of charge, receiving their previous average monthly wage throughout the training period.

Although western experts do not believe that the Kremlin's new blueprint will lead to anything like western levels of unemployment (unofficial estimates put involuntary unemployment in the USSR at less than 3 per cent), they note that drastic changes in work habits and expectations will be required if the plans are to have any chance of success.

In a country where the right to work is treated as second only to the right to life, changes in attitude will not necessarily come easily. As Professor Kostakov notes: "We regard it as natural and necessary that if, for objective reasons, a job position is eliminated, the worker must immediately be given another job. Now, however, one will have to get used to the thought that to find a job will require a certain period of time."

Christopher Walker

Anne Sofer

Centre forward — and backward

The Labour Party, as William Rodgers remarked at a private meeting last week, is trying to become the SDP Mark 2.

For those of us who have some acquaintance with the Labour Party on the ground, this is laughable. Take as an example the large and thriving Labour Party in Hampstead and Highgate (one of Labour's top target seats): in the past year it has passed motions deploring the witch-hunt against Militant, approving the courageous defence of Broadwater Farm against the police, and advocating defiance of the law over rate-capping. There seems a limited desire here, at any rate, to court the middle ground.

No so Neil Kinnock. Watching him talking to Brian Walden on *Weekend World* earlier this month, and subsequently reading the transcript of the interview, I am bound to agree with Bill Rodgers.

It was an extraordinarily easy and indulgent interview, particularly from such a grand master of the game as Walden. It was almost as if he had taken a deliberate decision not to ask difficult questions, not to harry or pin down, but to give someone learning a new language plenty of time to find the words, to stumble and correct himself, to build up his confidence in a new role. The politicians who left Labour five years ago to found the Social Democratic Party would have been glad of such an easy ride — to be allowed to generalize about freedom and equality without being interrogated about private medicine or the independent schools or the closed shop; to propound the primacy of production without being challenged on nationalization or attitudes to the market.

So because it was on this level of unchallenged generality, it was a little difficult to understand what Kinnock was saying. Indeed, Walden seemed to suffer from this difficulty as well, much though his words of bland encouragement were meant to deny it. "Very clear, very clear," he kept saying, "now we're getting along swimmingly!" Then he would go on to sum up what Kinnock had said, only to be instantly contradicted.

Kinnock's main achievement in this interview was to claim firmly that the Labour Party put individual freedom before equality, and production before redistribution — and that in what he won headlines for in the press the following day — but in the verbiage that followed he reversed those priorities to defend his back against his own party. Thus: "The pursuit of equality... is the means of turning individual freedom from a slogan, an adornment, into a real living thing..." Similarly, on the second issue: "So the process of redistribution, yes goes on, but it is as a complement, not just, it doesn't just have a merit of its own, though it does. It's also a complement to the whole business of rebuilding the basis of our

manufacturing economy". (Walden described that as a "complete and very clear answer").

In the real world (and the "real world", like the "middle ground", is a current cliché for where the action is) this just will not do. There are real conflicts to be resolved between freedom and equality and between production and redistribution which cannot be wished away by this sort of sleight of hand.

But the whole conversation was not really about priorities or policies or even a sustained line of argument: it was all about finding a new vocabulary for the Labour Party, a vocabulary which gives some words a considerable prominence — words like fairness, merit, efficiency — and demotes others. There were some conjuring tricks here as well. "Solidarity" (a slightly dodgy word) was sanitized by being used only in the context of Japan. "Equality" was presented as one stage as being a combination of the concepts of "equity" and "quality" — a synthesis which has a certain plausibility but no logical or etymological basis.

For Kinnock the most difficult word of all is "socialist". Here a new subliminal message has been meticulously and imaginatively worked out. At several points in the interview he was at pains to point out that what he wanted to do was not in any way peculiarly socialist. People with other political beliefs thought the same: it was only common sense. "Look, I happen to be a socialist," he seemed to be saying, (the approach was very endearing, just as if he were saying "I happen to have red hair and freckles"). "But don't hold it against me. I can talk sense as well as the next man, just as if I weren't a socialist at all..." He actually used, in this mood, words I never again expected to hear from a Labour leader: "We have to build a consensus, yes, a co-operative attitude..."

Do we clasp our hands piously and thank God for a sinner that repents? Do we believe even that he means it? Whether he does or not, he has certainly not thought out the implications. For if he really does regard socialism as merely one among a number of valid political philosophies, if he really does "celebrate the differences in society" as he claims, why is he so adamantly opposed to any form of coalition or proportional representation?

In truth the whole new image is a usual cynical attempt to edge the Labour vote up those extra percentage points in order to get total power. That, disarming frank politician Ken Livingstone puts the matter succinctly in this week's issue of my local paper: "We could get quite a surprising win with 38 per cent of the vote. The fact that the electoral system is a farce doesn't mean you don't take the power when you are offered it." That is what democratic socialism is all about.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/LEA for St Pancras North.

moreover... Miles Kington

All my own works

Ignore the Argyll bid for Distillers. Pay no attention to Rank's takeover of Granada. Don't take a blind bit of notice of General Motors' attempt to grab Austin Rover. Why not? Because Moreover Enterprises are making a bold bid for the whole lot, that's why. If you follow our advice, there will soon be a massive global company called Moreover-Rank-Armyll-Distillers-General-Rover-and-tonic (lemon-and-ice-please).

For the last few weeks there have been full-page ads in the papers. They have been written in very simple English. They have pointed out that Guinness (or Distillers) are the only people you can trust. Or that Argyll (or Guinness) are the people to follow. They have presented you with short sentences. So that you can understand what is going on. And the upshot has been that you haven't the faintest idea who is in the right. Or in the wrong. It's all very confusing. Isn't it?

Now, thank goodness, all that is over because Moreover, the biggest company in the world, has at last moved into the open and declared its intention of taking over the whole damn lot of them. No longer will you have to struggle to understand what on earth is going on, because Moreover is going to run everything, and you can go back to reading the sports pages again.

Moreover already controls most of the Amazon basin, the gun-running trade in the Middle East, the drug market at Heathrow, the concession on sticky plaster for the English test team in the West Indies, the cloakroom at the Press Council, the reserve guest list for the Terry Wogan show and Bob Geldof's Irish election lessons. We handle the bank accounts of Baby Doc Chevalier, President Marcos and whoever won the last snooker championship. We also have the catering rights for the next Geneva talks and the croissant franchise for the Channel Tunnel.

In other words, we are big and tough.

That's the kind of company you need to take over Rank and Granada and General Motors and Friends of the Earth. Yeah, you heard right. Friends of the Earth.

They're real tough cookies at Friends of the Earth, and we had a homingder of a battle before we took them over. After what the French did to the Greenpeace boat in New Zealand, we knew they were battle-hardened. Go on, sink a Russian cruise vessel, we said. And they did. You have to respect people like that.

Where were we? Oh, yeah. Moreover now intends to take over all the companies now boring the public silly with takeover bids. Especially American companies. Especially those American companies controlled by the Mafia. You may have read about the 600 Mafia men being held in cages in Sicily, and you may have wondered who was big enough to bring the Mafia to book. Moreover, that's who. Say no more.

We also, and this is where we think you will finally pay attention, intend to regularize the British football scene. For far too long we have been bedevilled by things like the Canon League and the Gola League, and the Milk Cup, and you keep asking yourselves questions like: What do Canon make, and what is Milk, and who drinks Gola-Cola? Well, for the next season all will be plain. We will have the Moreover League and the Moreover Cup and the Moreover Vase and the Moreover Bowl of Plastic Roses, and you will never have to ask yourself again: What is it all about?

But first of all, we need your support. Yes, you, the common shareholder, the bastion of democracy, we cannot do without you. Well, that is not quite true. Our plans are so well laid that we can get by without you quite well. But it always looks better if we make an appeal to you. And how better than by buying space in the Moreover column, just one of the tiny outposts of our vast empire?

So just remember this. By this time next week, we shall be in control of all of you. At the moment, we represent the caring side of capitalism. By next week we shall represent the couldn't-care-less-side of capitalism. Don't say you haven't been warned. If you want to be with us, give us your vote. Or not. We couldn't care less.



MR CHURCHILL'S BAD BILL

The most damn ing thing that can be said about Mr Winston Churchill's obscenity bill is that it could have been introduced at any time during the past quarter-century. It is indifferent to debate about the control of broadcasting and the future of the BBC. To it, direct broadcasting by satellite and the "new media" of mass communication are irrelevant. Worse, Mr Churchill and his supporters behave as if there had been no change of government seven years ago, and the Thatcher era had seen no effort to re-educate Britain in the dependence of economic success on personal freedom and enterprise.

Behind Mr Churchill is Mrs Mary Whitehouse. She, it has long been plain, has little time for markets, especially in matters of culture and taste. She is not much of an individualist either, if that entails leaving to individuals in their homes and families and in their commercial dealings the freedom to make their own choice about the cultural material they buy and view and allow their dependents to buy and watch. But what is disconcerting is to see Mrs Whitehouse joined in her campaign by Conservatives including the Prime Minister himself apparently unaware of the discrepancy between their espousal of market individualism and their enthusiasm for heavy-handed policemen, agents of the State, interposing themselves between individual consumers and broadcast material.

What a signal to give the nation. To bring the State with its apparatus of censorship into stage, screen, gallery, even the daily newspaper, because it knows better than parents

when and in what way the young are to be protected. And the implicit message goes wider. The rise of the "cultural industries" is a facet of economic change. Jobs for actors, actresses, producers and all the ancillary functionaries substitute in the medium run for older, decayed manufacturing industries. Here is an area of economic specialization where Britain does well. Is that to be choked, cramped and subjected to the penetrating gaze of Mrs Grundy? No minister with the government's broad objectives in mind can with a clear conscience walk through the lobbies in support of this bill.

Mr Churchill's bill is bad, and no amount of last minute refurbishment in committee will salvage it. It is unnecessary. Where are the legions of parents so enslaved by television and video that they, incapable of turning sets off at home, have to have the state bludgeoned producers of programmes? There are parents anxious about the effects of television, but their concerns are about random fictional violence rather than sex. The remedy is better dialogue between consumers, television executives, importers of detective fiction and eventually producers - not government intervention.

No sound case has been put for extending the ambit of the Obscene Publications Act to television. Repeated citations of the showing of a single film (a serious film, its theme taken from the early church) late at night on a minority channel advance that case not one jot. The Act has settled into a comfortable middle age, rising

on the moving tide of public standards. Now, in realization of a persistent lobbying group's wish list, the Act is to be yanked into a new lease of active life, to be used against all and sundry. Under Mr Churchill's scheme everyone from gallery manager to film exhibitor will stand to be arraigned. Here is a recipe for overloading the courts, stifling cultural creation and depriving the public of entire categories of programme and picture.

The progress of Mr Churchill's bill has shown the House of Commons at its worst. Cranks on all fronts have been attracted to its blanket bans and its universal condemnations. On one side an MP has proposed extending the bill's hit list of forbidden images to the printed word. On the other an MP is trying to extend its censorship to communication by telephone. A regulatory Christmas tree is constructed with minimal thought.

The sources of television programming multiply. Methods of broadcasting diversify, with the growth now in Europe of satellite transmissions and the boom in video cassettes. New regulatory frameworks will be needed, and much care will need to be expended on their shape and intrusiveness. There will be hard work for parliament to do, sooner or later. On this communications future however, Mr Churchill's bill is mpt. It offers a mere reflex. Its spirit is that of the censor. Its methods those of the authoritarian state's policeman. It is a bill that should proceed no further.

WAITING FOR HONECKER

When will the East German leader, Erich Honecker, visit West Germany? This question threatens to become one of the hardy perennials of German politics, raised each year but never finally answered.

The historic visit was scheduled for autumn 1984, but cancelled at the eleventh hour in an unprecedented flurry of public controversy between (and within) the regimes of the Soviet bloc. It was rumoured to be imminent again at the end of last year, but Honecker came there none. And now we are told that last week's visit to Bonn by Herr Horst Sindermann, the second man in the East German state, was a prelude and a dress rehearsal for his leader's visit. We will believe it when we see it.

Formally speaking, Herr Sindermann was in Bonn in his capacity as President of the Volkskammer of the German Democratic Republic, on the invitation of the Social Democrats in the West German Bundestag. But his visit was dramatically upgraded by the fact that he was received by Chancellor Kohl and by the President of the Bundestag, Herr Philipp Jenninger. Some Christian Democrats objected to the latter meeting on the grounds that the West German Bundestag is a real parliament and the East German Volkskammer is not. They have a point. The Volkskammer is not a parliament. It is a rubberstamp. When asked why votes in the Volkskammer are always unanimous, Herr Sindermann averred "Of course there are differences of opinion, but that's all cleared up in committee ahead of time, before the vote in the chamber."

Yet these Christian Democrats were perhaps as much worried by the fact that this visit was organised by the Social Democrats. Over the last year the SPD has been quietly unfolding what has been called its "second Ostpolitik". This involved building up a network of party-to-party negotiations and relationships with the ruling Communist parties of Eastern Europe.

SPD delegates are meant to be discussing environmental problems with the Czechoslovak Communist party, economic issues with the Hungarian comrades, "confidence-building" with the Polish United Workers' Party (whose confidence in whom?), and, of all things, defence spending cuts with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. With East Germany's ruling communist party, the SED, they have already produced a joint "draft treaty" for a chemical weapon-free zone in Central Europe (defined as the two Germanies and Czechoslovakia), and are working on a joint commitment to a nuclear-free zone.

There are major objections of substance to the SPD's "second Ostpolitik". It tends to obscure the fundamental ideological differences between communism and social democracy, which the SPD has traditionally been the first to point out. More serious still, it seems to accept the linkage between intra-German relations (Deutschlandpolitik) and security policy which Soviet leaders have always tried to impose, and which the Kohl government, to its credit, has resolutely ignored.

But there is also a domestic political side to this debate.

With these various moves the SPD has appeared to take the initiative in Ostpolitik, a remarkable achievement for a party out of office, and an electoral plus. If, however, Chancellor Kohl can bring off a Honecker visit before next year's general election, the balance will be more than righted.

Herr Honecker himself, in a recent interview with the West German newspaper Die Zeit, made cautiously positive reference to the Kohl government's stance on intra-German relations, and said he would pay his long-awaited call at a time convenient to both sides. Herr Sindermann in Bonn brought further hints of progress, himself raising the (to West Germany) all-important subject of improving human contacts between the Germans in the two states. He also set a couple of useful little precedents in those points of protocol which so egregiously complicate German-German diplomacy.

At the same time, however, another senior East German Politburo member was guardedly presenting East-West German relations, in the pages of Pravda, as a contribution to the Soviet-led struggle for peace. And there's the rub. For Moscow still holds the key. This time round, Herr Honecker will surely not commit himself until he is absolutely confident that he has a clear green light from the Soviet leader. That will almost certainly mean waiting until after the Soviet party congress, and probably until after his own party congress, which is scheduled for April. So Bonn may settle back to at least a few more enjoyable weeks of "will he, won't he?"

Cricket safety

From Mr H. J. Stockwell
Sir, May I point out to the Rev James Funnell (February 21) that batsmen use "the other kind of protector" to protect themselves against the ball which is bowled legitimately with the intention of hitting the stumps, whereas the type of ball which is bowled with the intention of softening up the batsman - not that any bowler could soften up Mike Gatting - or making the batsman give a catch while defending his person and not the wicket is illegal, is not cricket, and should be so called by any umpire who can read the Laws.

The game so many of us used to love as an art and a model for a way of life has been fukered to suit our present-day violent society. Yours faithfully, H. J. STOCKWELL, Cymru, Epping Road, Royston, Essex, February 21.

From Mr J. E. Harper
Sir, After the horrendous accident to Mike Gatting (report, February 20) I tried out something like the full protective equipment your cricket photograph displayed in today's Times (February 21). I could still see the ball, even when bowled fast. The trouble was, I found it hard to move and wellnigh impossible to run. Will the "quick single" die, as has the "quick two"? Yours sincerely, J. E. HARPER, Koooyong, Queen's Road, Colchester, Essex, February 21.

A total blank

From Mr A. B. M. Campbell
Sir, Many of your readers must have seen the recent BBC television commercial, fronted by John Cleese, in which he lists what he gets for his £38 licence. What he doesn't get is any TV coverage, live or dead, of the England team playing the national

game in a Test match against the West Indies. Shut up, Wogan! Yours sincerely, ALASDAIR CAMPBELL, Cockles House, Fletching, Uckfield, East Sussex.

Seen along the line

From Mr Jonathan Bates
Sir, I am pleased to be able to tell Dr Furdson (February 12) that scarecrows have not disappeared; they have merely developed, in much the same way that art is supposed to have developed. Many of today's scarecrows consist of a pole surmounted by a bin liner or similar plastic sheet - a punk scarecrow, perhaps - whilst others are vaguely mechanical in appearance. I have even spotted cubist scarecrows during recent walks in the countryside. However, like Dr Furdson I much prefer the traditional variety. Yours faithfully, JONATHAN BATES, 8 Buckstone Rise, Edinburgh.

Charity concession only limited

From the Director of the Charities Aid Foundation
Sir, The publicity you have given (report, February 19) to the possibility of new tax incentives in the Budget to encourage more giving is in danger of creating false hopes on the one hand and unnecessary anxiety on the other. May I therefore make a number of points.

1. It is likely that the new American-style incentives will be given to public companies only in this Budget. An incentive for individuals may be announced as the subject of a working party or to be under consideration for a certain date, for example, 1988. 2. The covenant system will not be abolished; new incentives will be additional to, not instead of, covenants. Few should realise that an incentive given now can be removed later, whereas the right to abrogate income on which tax has been paid to a charity is now inalienable. Besides, the churches, many membership charities and many project appeals survive absolutely because of covenants.

3. The company concession will not lead to a "bonanza". Companies will receive £70 million per year; the top 200 companies give half of this and have excellent tax provisions already, whilst the local company can already give to local charities as a business expense. Also close and private companies will not be included until individuals are. Therefore the immediate effect of this likely company concession should be several millions rather than tens of millions of new money per year.

None of these points is intended to play down the excitement of the immediate or medium-term prospects. We would forecast a dramatic increase in private support for charity given effective incentives for individuals when it does happen. Voluntary cash contributions, running presently

at £500 million per year, should double within five years of the introduction of an encouraging tax regime. We seek only to allay fears until, or to avoid too much disappointment on, March 18. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL BROPHY, Director, Charities Aid Foundation, 14 Bloomsbury Square, WCI, February 20.

From Mr N. V. Halliday
Sir, It is ironic that in your interesting leader today (February 20) on the tax status of charities you should choose the word "theological" to describe the debate as to whether tax revenue diverted to charities is "public money". Your implication is that the question is arcane, academic and of no practical relevance.

This is a usage which gained currency (rather inappropriately, I thought) during the recent debates about the Labour Party's constitution, debates which journalists in particular intended to describe as "theological".

The usage reflects, however, only a secularist misapprehension. Theology, the knowledge of God, is nothing if not directly practical - and this is seen nowhere more clearly than in the British charities of which you write. For it was precisely their understanding of what God is like, and therefore what man is worth, which motivated many of the pioneers of British charitable institutions in the last century. With a different theology they might never have started.

Yours faithfully, NIGEL VAUX HALLIDAY, 108 Gloucester Court, Kew Road, Kew Gardens, Surrey, February 20.

Benefits for the cold and old

From Mr T. G. C. Knight
Sir, Your leader's article on "Winter hardship" (February 19) may have fallen into the trap of thinking there are simple formulae for deciding how and when payments should be made. He says "severe weather payments hinge on out-of-the-ordinary conditions". We know that "normal" is only a mean between extremes, but at what point does anything become out-of-the-ordinary? It is not so easy for those who have to decide.

In referring to loan arrangements your writer also mentions the words "sufficient" (in referring to basic rates) and "reasonable" (in referring to provision for winter fuel). These are not easy words to define. In practice what may prove adequate for A may be inadequate for B, just as what may be reasonable for B may not be so for A. Individual circumstances are so often a major factor.

In the past 20 years the Supplementary Benefits Commission and its successors have sought legislation which might establish absolute precision in decision-making. The flaw has been that new laws paved the way for payments to many who may not have been in real need while debarring many others who might

not have been excluded had discretionary powers been more readily available and whose real needs were very obvious. The dehumanisation of the system has been one of its most distressing features.

It is true that, without clearly defined guidelines, there was, and is, always the risk of certain officials, or areas, being more lenient or more severe than others. But, if "need" (also, admittedly, difficult to define) is to be the criterion, as it ought always to be, there is much to be said for the exercise of discretion, rather than voluminous regulations which are unintelligible to the public at large and to many officials themselves, even if it does mean apparent discrepancies at times.

The 1966 Supplementary Benefits Act was not as bad, in retrospect, as its critics suggested. And there was, and still is, much to be said for the A Code (the DHSS internal guide) and its confidentiality. Yours faithfully, T. G. C. KNIGHT, Wildwood, Fielden Lane, Crowthorne, Surrey, February 19.

The missing matron

From the General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing

Sir, Mr R. M. Nicholls, the General Manager of Southmead District Health Authority (February 17), completely misses the point about the Royal College of Nursing campaign. The issue is not about how many nurses have been appointed as general managers. Even if 50 per cent of general managers were former nurses they, as individuals, would still require an adequate nursing structure because 50 per cent of their staff would be nurses and probably over 40 per cent of their budget would be spent on nursing.

Too many general managers think they can run nursing in their district with advice from nurses rather than properly led and managed nursing teams. To talk about ward sisters becoming general managers indicates the shift of place away from professional care. It will bring more administration into the wards, not more influence in management. The Royal College of Nursing has been careful to say that it foresees serious problems in about 70 health authorities in England where the nursing structure has been emasculated. We believe this is a large enough minority to merit central Government action.

Mr Nicholls reflects upon the impact of the campaign on nursing morale and public confidence. Far from undermining morale, the advertisements have given nurses confidence to speak out locally about what they see happening around them. Public confidence will indeed be shaken if the humanity and compassion in the NHS is submerged in a welter of so-called efficiency savings and greater productivity and throughput.

Finally, the Griffiths reorganisation is not, in most cases, about devolving more power to the ward sister and charge nurse. It is they who have been most vocal about the dismantling of the professional support structure they require. Hollow promises will impress no one, least of all ward sisters. Yours faithfully, TREVOR CLAY, General Secretary, Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom, 20 Cavendish Square, W1, February 18.

From the President of The Institute of Health Services Management

Sir, The Royal College of Nursing have a good point in their simple message that the NHS needs nursing management and advice. Most general managers accept and endorse that message. The college have, however, made a number of claims which will not stand up to examination.

It may suit the college's purpose to conjure up armies of pin-striped executives, but it is simply not true. Of the 605 general managers so far appointed, only 46 are from the private sector and 46 are nurses!

The RCN advertisements give the impression that long-standing NHS problems have been caused by general management. Staffing levels at night have been a problem throughout the time when nursing was managed by nurses and remain so today. The RCN urges us to "put the patient, not the balance sheet first". These are false alternatives. Putting the patient first is something we all need to learn to do. It is quite wrong to suggest that sound financial management is in opposition to "patients first". Vast resources are spent on nursing services and it is in the patient's as well as the taxpayer's interest that managers should view nursing in terms of cost as well as care.

Roy Griffiths produced a powerful critique of NHS management. The RCN campaign is no answer to that critique or to the problems of managing a complex modern health service. Yours sincerely, KEN JARROLD, President, The Institute of Health Services Management, 75 Portland Place, W1.

Tory position

From Dr L. Rose
Sir, What is so reassuring (Sir Ian Percival, yesterday) about retaining the "steady support" of 33 per cent of the popular vote? Would it not be wise to pay attention to what the other 66 per cent want? Yours faithfully, L. ROSE, 7 View Close, View Road, Highgate, N6, February 18.

Some errors in 'thinking big'

From Mr Philip R. Lowe
Sir, In his letter on merger issues (February 19) Sir Michael Edwards misses the real point behind the reservations held by so many who are opposed to the Leyland/Bedford merger, amongst others.

Rightly or wrongly, the public at large tend to see three results from most mergers: firstly, a large financial windfall for the shareholders of the "target" company (with accompanying opportunities for speculators to make a "killing"); secondly, further limitation of choice and availability of product for the customer (be he consumer or otherwise); and thirdly, yet another redundancy programme (usually in the guise of "rationalisation") to further swell the dole queue.

Such fears may or may not be unfounded. However, the examples of Leyland itself (whose manifest difficulties only occurred after a series of disastrous mergers in the 1960s) and Chrysler UK, formerly Rootes Group (whose decline did not seriously set in until the takeover by Chrysler US, again in the 1960s) give such fears much credence. Either way such feelings are most understandable and worthy of greater respect than to be dismissed as "doctrinaire and parochial" or "little Englander".

To trade in a heavyweight world Britain must, as Sir Michael says, "think big". However, to imply that the art of allowing our sole remaining volume vehicle manufacturer to fall under the control of a foreign-owned competitor accords with the description of "thinking big" seems, with respect, to be illogical.

Sir Michael asks how many of our businesses will be effective in 10 years' time if views do not change. If the proposed series of mergers goes ahead, to be followed presumably by yet more, then I imagine the customers, employees, unions and management of Leyland, plus anyone else with an interest in seeing that Britain maintains some vestige of manufacturing industry under its control, will be asking themselves the same question. Yours faithfully, PHILIP R. LOWE, 14 Woodland Close, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, February 19.

'Birth of a motor

From Bishop W. Warren Hunt
Sir, Mr Pearson Phillips (Spectrum, February 13) gives a version of how the Land Rover was conceived and born. The account I have come from Maurice Wilks himself as we were on holiday in Anglesey.

He had taken his young sons down to the beach at Red Wharf Bay and as he sat there dreamed of something that would take him and the boys across the vast stretch of sand and sea to wherever they wanted to go. Then it would take them up the steep, rough stony track, through the trees back to the hotel.

Dreams turned to ideas which he jotted down on that day's page of his diary. As the first Land Rover stood in the factory yard he looked back in his diary - it was nine months to the day since he had first made his notes.

To be a passenger in a Land Rover when he drove it over seemingly impossible land and through the sea was an experience never to be forgotten. Yours faithfully, W. WARREN HUNT, 15 Lynch Down, Funtunton, Nr Chichester, West Sussex, February 15.

Sunday trading

From the Chairman of the Consumers' Association

Sir, Mr David Crouch, MP's innocent letter (February 20) is disarming. Like the Canterbury Christian Council, Consumers' Association could hold a public meeting in Canterbury. An audience of 200, including church-goers, would vote in favour of sweeping away the laws about shopping hours. Our problem is that unlike, for example, the Keep Sunday Special campaign, we could not use hundreds of thousands of pounds to organise petitions, arrange a "write-in" and pack meetings with supporters. Neither would I want to.

The voices that are shouting loud and long are not the voices of the electorate. Poll after poll of statistically representative samples of the public shows the majority of people to be in favour of deregulation. In countries where there is legal Sunday trading - Scotland and Sweden - there is no question that Sunday is still special. It could not be "like any other day of the week" when most shops and places of work will still be shut.

Sweeping away the Shops Act, protecting the hours of shopworkers, attending church and having Sunday as a different day are not irreconcilable. To claim that the campaign against deregulation is a spontaneous expression of widely held views is a distortion of the facts. Yours faithfully, RACHEL WATERHOUSE, Chairman, Consumers' Association, 14 Buckingham Street, WC2, February 20.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 24 1874

The capture by the Ashantee tribe in West Africa of members of the Basle Mission took place in June 1869. War between that tribe and the Fanti tribe delayed the prisoners' release, which was not effected until January 1874, when Sir Garnet Wolseley's troops marched into Coomassie. Our Special Correspondent was Winswood Beadle (1835-75).

IN CAPTIVITY AT COOMASSIE

Frahan, Jan 18

In this letter I shall offer to your readers a condensed narrative of Mr Kuhn's capture and captivity as related to me by himself, preceding his story with a few remarks on the Mission to which he belongs, and the country in which it carries on its work. That country forms part of the Gold Coast.

The stations of the Basle Mission are partly in the forest region, partly in the open land. It was my fortune a few years ago to pass much time among these missionaries, and I have had many a conversation with them in relation to the captives at Coomassie. The Christian Missionary Society did great things in the early days at Sierra Leone, when shipsloads of naked savages taken on board slave ships were disembarked every month in that settlement. But as regards missionary labours among independent savage tribes in Western Africa it is certain that the Basle Mission should receive the palm. The principles upon which it is conducted make it resemble those of the industrial communities of monks which heaved clearings in the great German forests and regarded labour as a kind of prayer.

With respect to missionaries trading with the natives (for the benefit of the Society), a difference of opinion may prevail; but no rational man will deny that it is good for missionaries to teach their converts useful handicrafts and the discipline of industry. They have posted their stations a considerable distance into the interior, and one of the most inland was at the town of Anum, in the Kreepee country, on the other side of the Volta. Presently the Ashantes were reported to be near Anum. Every one left the town; the missionaries sent their clerk and catechist and servants away, and remained quite alone in the house. They were three in number - Mr Kuhn, Mr Ramsayer, and Mrs Ramsayer who had an infant ten months old. It was on the 12th of June 1869, Mrs Ramsayer was in the gallery spreading out clothes to dry when she saw the barrels of muskets above the high gables. About 20 armed men appeared and pointed their guns at the house. She wished them good morning and went inside. The two missionaries went out and asked the man if they were Ashantes, and on receiving their reply said they were friends to the Ashantes as well as to all other people, and had nothing to do with the war. They then shook hands, and the leader of the men said they must all go down to Anum and salute the General. The next day they were made to march off again. Mrs Ramsayer lost one of her shoes in a swamp, but was not allowed to wait for a moment. Mr Kuhn lagged, and was threatened with the whip. It was dark before they reached the Ashantee camp. They were taken before they had time to suppose to be a tent, but it was a huge umbrella. Beneath it sat a man covered with a white cloth. They were told that this was Adoo Buffo. The soldiers of the escort knelt down and presented the captives. Some men rushed up to Mrs Ramsayer and tore off the skirt of her gown. A man with a long knife came up and separated the captives. Mr Kuhn was taken to a hut in which sat a chief, bleeding from five wounds which were being washed with hot water. He ordered Kuhn to sit down, and made signs that he would cut off his arms. The chief then inquired if he had been fighting. Kuhn replied that he was a priest. The chief made a sign, and he was put into irons. He felt sure that he would be killed. However, though kept in irons and robbed, they were not otherwise ill-treated, and Adoo Buffo informed them with much politeness... they must go to a quiet town... and sent them off. They walked for some distance until they came to a hill, whence they could see the Volta. Then they knew that the quiet town to which they were going was Coomassie.

Mrs Ramsayer had some desiccated milk in a bottle, and with this she kept the child alive for a time. When the milk was finished she made it food with eggs and boiled corn, and when they entered a village the missionaries used to go begging from house to house for an egg. They were not always successful, but the natives were sometimes very kind and brought them food of their own accord. The child became thinner and paler every day, and died before the end of July. It had just been buried, when they received a present from the King and a message telling them not to be afraid.

Worlds apart

From Dr W. J. Trowell

Sir, When I had my eyes tested by my optician he used an apparatus based on a principle discovered by Isaac Newton and manufactured by the East Yorkshire Optical Company of Japan. Yours etc, JOHN TROWELL, Lister House, Staple Tye, Great Parndon, Harlow, Essex.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 23: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, President of the Save the Children Fund, this evening attended a performance of the *Messiah* at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

Miss Victoria Legge Bourke was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

February 23: The Prince of

Wales arrived at Royal Air Force Brize Norton this evening in a VC10 aircraft of No 10 Squadron, Royal Air Force from the United States of America. Sir John Riddell, Bt was in attendance.

A memorial service for Sir Hugh Forbes will be held at the Temple Church, EC4, at 4.45pm today.

A memorial service for Robert Fraser will be held on March 5 at St Mary's on Paddington Green at noon.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.R.E. Joly and Lady Rose Scott
The engagement is announced between Charles, youngest son of Lieutenant-Commander and Mrs James Joly, of Chevington, Gloucestershire, and Rose, daughter of the late Earl and Countess of Eidon.

Captain T.J. Gregson and Miss C.M. Aldink
The engagement is announced between Timothy John Gregson, The Light Infantry, eldest son of the late Lieutenant Colonel R. Gregson and Mrs A.V. Barker, and stepson of the late Rev C.C. Barker, of York, and Catherine Murdin, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.D. Atkin, of Eaton Square, London, and Gex, France.

Mr A.F. Blanton and Miss L.A. Peris
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs T.R. Blanton, of Colham, Surrey, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.T. Peris and the late Mrs Peris, of Marion-in-Cleveland.

Mr P.L. Bostock and Miss D.A. Clayton
The engagement is announced between Peter, only son of Mr and Mrs C.L. Bostock, of Charlton, London, and Deborah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Clayton, of Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire.

Mr P.C. Cronson and Miss C.M. Milnes
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr D. Cronson, of Geneva, and Mrs Mary Sharp Cronson, of New York, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs C.F. Milnes, of Christchurch, Dorset.

Mr K.A.M. Evans and Miss M.A. Hiscok
The engagement is announced between Kim Anthony, son of the late Mervyn Evans and of Mrs Harry Ball, and stepson of Lieutenant-Colonel Harry Ball, of Charing, Kent, and Maria Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hiscok, of Camberley, Surrey.

Birthdays today
Mrs N.H. Alexander, 71; Professor E. Boyland, 81; Dr Lionel Dakers, 62; Mr Reginald Freeman, MP, 60; Mr Richard Hamilton, 64; Mr Paul Jones, 44; Mr David Langdon, 72; Mr Charles McCall, 79; Mr Melchett, 38; Admiral Sir William Pillar, 62; Mr Frank Rogers, 66; Sir Edgar Vaughan, 79; Mr Dennis Waterman, 38; Sir Harold Wilkinson, 83.

Francis Holland School

The biennial old girls' party for the school birthday will be held at Francis Holland School, Graham Terrace, on Thursday, February 27, 6.30pm. Miss Bowden and Miss Colville are planning to attend. The headmistress would be delighted to see as many old girls as can attend. Telephone 01-730 2971.

King of Spain for London

The King and Queen of Spain will pay a state visit to Britain starting on April 22, the Spanish Foreign Ministry announced. It will be the first such visit by a reigning Spanish king for 80 years.

Dinner

League of Friends
The Italian Ambassador was present at the annual dinner held by the League of Friends on Saturday at Grosvenor House in aid of the Italian Hospital. The guest of honour was Signor Onorevole Giovanni Goria, and Lady Thorneycroft, President of the League of Friends, was in the chair. The guests included: Signora Goria, Lord Thorneycroft, CH, Viscountess Hambleden, Lord and Lady Forte and Signor and Signora Umberto Vattani.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Stephen Egerton to be Ambassador to Saudi Arabia in succession to Sir Patrick Wright, who will be returning to London later this year to become Permanent Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Head of the Diplomatic Corps.

Mr Michael Tait to be Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates in succession to Mr H.B. Walker, who will be taking up a further Diplomatic Service appointment.

Mr William Aldous, QC, to be the Chairman of the Performing Rights Tribunal.

Clifford Longley Church's grumbling appendix

Government reaction to the Church of England report on the inner cities last December is described as "partly hysterical" and "entirely confused" in a comment in the 1986 edition of *The Church of England Year Book*, published yesterday.

The preface to the year book, which is from an unnamed source close to the Secretary General of the General Synod, Mr Derek Pattinson, also doubts subsequent government denials that it was responsible for breaching confidentiality by leaking the report in advance of publication. "There was a strong rumour of an official hand in it," it states.

The chairman of the Conservative Party, Mr Norman Tebbit, and his deputy, Mr Geoffrey Archer, raised the level of "vituperation" even higher by trying to discredit the chairman of the commission which wrote the report, Sir Richard O'Brien.

The report, which was critical of government policy in inner city areas, appeared amid charges of Marxism from anonymous government sources, a charge which was subsequently contradicted by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment. The year book preface is so far the strongest comment to come from the church on last year's controversy.

The preface also comments at length on the less dramatic but more enduring (and possibly related) debate about what the Church of England stands for, and whether there is an identifiable entity called Anglican belief.

It takes seriously the argument of a leading article in *The Times* last November that the church's "comprehensiveness" could become a harmful indulgence, "where it seems to stand for nothing at all or nothing in particular." The preface-writer comments that there is an undoubted problem about comprehensiveness, while reporting the answer of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, to such criticisms.

This is that "the ordered structure of the church in the ordained ministry" makes for a shared life, a common Christian life, in which the elements embraced in the term comprehensiveness - catholic, evangelical and liberal -

are free to enjoy their differences. The bedrock of Anglicanism's "shared life", Dr Runcie says, is the sharing of the Gospel, the sharing of the creeds, and the sharing of the sacraments. That it is not more precisely defined is a virtue, the function of authority in Anglicanism is to maintain the basic common life of the church which "makes possible authentic Christian freedom", to use Dr Runcie's words.

They came from his inaugural presidential address to the general synod last autumn, and they represent a significant development in the search for a definition of Anglicanism. This search has become like a grumbling appendix both in inter-church theological discussions and in the church's occasional tangles with secular power, where in both cases the Church of England has had some difficulty answering the question: "Who is speaking, please?"

It is also relevant to the current grassroots ecumenical programme in which local groups, aided by local radio stations, are studying throughout Lent the two questions "What is the church?" and "What is the church for?" It is a search for Anglican identity.

Dr Runcie does not speak out of the blue. His presidential address to the synod was an Anglican presentation of the concept of *koinonia* (Greek) or *communio* (Latin) which is emerging as the idea whose time has come throughout the Christian churches.

It was the key word in last autumn's Extraordinary Synod in Rome, where the Roman Catholic Church was stirred away from a course of conservative retrenchment in the name of that idea. It was also the central unifying principle to emerge when the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (A.R.C.I.) produced its report in 1982, which first gave it wide currency.

It is a concept whose provenance is neither Roman nor Anglican nor Protestant but Orthodox, though it seems to be equally acceptable wherever it appears. (In its usual pronunciation, the Greek rhymes with "joy holder".)

It is, nevertheless, hard to define. Cardinal Basil Hume, trying to do so at a press conference last year, was reduced

to clucking his fingers. *Koinonia* has no exact English equivalent. It is a stronger word than "fellowship", being less sentimental and more structured.

Those held in a relationship of *koinonia* have a bond between them that is not wholly dependent on how they feel about it, like the bond between husband and wife or members of the same army platoon. There is an implication of shared property and joint responsibility; and in a sense different from superficial emotion, love.

Koinonia is the web of subliminal connections between people in a particular kind of society; and applied to the church, participation in that web is achieved through baptism. It is hard to speak of precisely, therefore, without sacramental and metaphysical language; otherwise it has no objective character, and means whatever the user wants it to mean.

The importance of incorporating it into a definition of Anglicanism is that it is an ecumenically powerful theological tool. Dr Runcie's implicit use of it in his presidential address last year pointed a way round the problem of Anglican diversity, a kind of internal ecumenism.

And if all the churches understand themselves in terms of *koinonia*, some of the difficulties of uniting them start to look less intractable, if the unity being sought is also conceived that way. It suggests a more helpful way of stating the key problem of the church, which is critical in Anglicanism and no less so ecumenically. Human authority in the church becomes a servant of *koinonia*, not its master. Acts of authority are for building it up, not dictating to it.

The outstanding issue raised by this concept in the Church of England is that a church so described must to some minimum degree be organic and visible, with a "basic common life" that is something else than English citizenship with a "C of E" label.

It is that familiar Anglican assumption which makes comprehensiveness so incompensable, for it gives any random group of Tory MPs no better or worse right to speak for the church on urban priorities, say, than an archbishop's hand-picked commission.



The future of the Henry Moore altar commissioned for St Stephen Walbrook, one of Wren's finest and most complex churches, is in doubt after the consistory court of the diocese of London refused permission for its installation. The court ruled that Moore's work was not a table as defined under canon law, but the Rev Chad Varah, the rector, said he would appeal. (Photograph: Peter Trietnor).

Sale room

English coup in Monaco

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

An English dealer carried off the star lot in Sotheby's sale of Old Master paintings in Monaco on Saturday, paying 2,109,000 francs (estimate 1 million to 1.4 million francs) or £202,788 for a charming little street scene, busy with passers-by, painted by Boilly in 1806.

The other big price of the sale was also for a French picture, a gay vase of flowers on a table, by Anne Vallayer-Coster, which made 1,776,000 francs (estimate 700,000 to 900,000 francs) or £170,769.

The French Museums Nationaux were represented at the sale and pre-empted the purchase of two portraits of distinguished rulers. They spent 166,500 francs (estimate

150,000 to 200,000 francs) or £61,010 on a full-length portrait of Jerome Napoleon in his royal robes as King of Westphalia. The Ministry of Culture intends it for the drawing room of the Palais-Royal.

A portrait of Marie de Medicis in the mythological garb of Minerva cost them 277,500 francs (estimate 200,000 to 300,000) or £26,683 and is to go to Fontainebleau. The sale totalled £2.2 million with 13 per cent left unsold.

Sotheby's sale of Old Master drawings contained an album of sketches made by David in Rome between 1775 and 1780. 80 of them in all, which sold for 1,720,500 francs or £165,865. His sojourn in Rome set David on his career as a classicist and was thus a particularly interesting period.

It made 288,600 francs (£27,750) against an estimate of only 10,000 to 15,000 francs, the purchaser clearly having bigger ideas about the attribution. It went to an American bidding over the telephone.

The sale of Old Master drawings made a total of £649,807 with four per cent left unsold.

Sotheby's sale of jewellery and precious objects in St Moritz made £4.3 million with 38 per cent unsold. As usual in this venue there were plenty of private collectors.

Science report

Nine-month trial of birth control vaccine

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The world's first human trial of a birth control vaccine begins in Adelaide, Australia, this month on a group of 30 already sterilized women volunteers. The trial is scheduled to last for nine months and aims to determine the safety and side-effects of the vaccine.

After the successful completion of this phase, the vaccine will then be tested on fertile women to assess its efficacy as a method of birth control. The trials are part of a World Health Organization programme which could result in the vaccine becoming available in the mid-1990s.

The vaccine is based on a hormone, human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), which is

produced soon after fertilization and is necessary for the establishment and maintenance of early pregnancy. When injected, the vaccine triggers an immune response that neutralizes the hormone, thus interrupting the reproductive process before the fertilized egg has implanted successfully in the womb.

It has been developed by Ohio State University in the United States in collaboration with other academic centres, the drug industry and the WHO over the past ten years, and has already been shown to be safe in several animal species, and to prevent pregnancy in baboons.

The infertility rate in inject-

ed baboons has been reported as 95 per cent compared with 30 per cent for a control group on placebo. Both groups were mated with male baboons of proven fertility through three menstrual cycles or until they became pregnant.

Two of the 15 vaccinated females were pregnant after 44 matings, whereas 14 of the 15 control females were pregnant after 20 matings.

The infertility rate should be higher in women, because the vaccine is based on human peptides, and two injections should protect a woman against pregnancy for at least a year, according to Professor Warren R. Jones, who is leading the trials in Adelaide.

OBITUARY

SIR ANTHONY RAWLINSON

Civil Service and mountaineering

Sir Anthony Rawlinson, KCB, a former Joint Permanent Secretary at the Department of Trade, was killed in a fall from Snowdon on February 22. He was 59.

Born on March 5, 1926, he was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, and served in the Grenadier Guards from 1944 to 1947.

His civil service career was concentrated mainly in the Treasury, from which he went to Washington in 1972-75 as Britain's executive director of the International Monetary Fund at the World Bank, a job which is combined with that of economic minister in the British Embassy in Washington.

After a brief spell in the Department of Industry, he returned to the Treasury as one of three senior permanent secretaries. There he had responsibility for public expenditure during a period of rapid change in the management of public programmes, and oversaw the switch to cash planning and budgeting, begun under the Callaghan government but accelerated under the first of Mrs Thatcher's administrations.

In 1983, he moved to become permanent secretary at the Department of Trade, which was fused with the Department of Industry under Mr Cecil Parkinson after the 1983 election, though still retaining two permanent secretaries.

At Trade, Rawlinson had responsibility for issues of competition policy, and was much involved in the negotiations that culminated in the

Stock Exchange's agreement to end fixed commissions and combine the roles of stockbrokers and stock jobbers, setting in train "City revolution" that will reach its climax later this year.

After his retirement from the Department of Trade and Industry he became chairman of the Gaming Board.

Ever since his school days Rawlinson had maintained a lifelong interest in mountaineering and had climbed extensively and regularly in this country and in the Alps.

In this field, as in the Civil Service, he was one of the outstanding men of his generation. In 1949-1950 he was president of the Oxford University Mountaineering Club and in 1970-1971 was chairman of the Mount Everest Foundation, a charity set up by the Alpine Club and the Royal Geographical Society to control the distribution of funds arising initially from the successful British Expedition to Everest in 1953, and used to encourage and support mountain exploration throughout the world.

Rawlinson himself had been one of the four reserves for that expedition, and narrowly missed being chosen by Colonel Hunt, as he then was, as a travelling member of the party.

Having served as honorary secretary of the Alpine Club from 1963-1966, Rawlinson had just begun his term as president of the club, and in that office had already done enough to demonstrate the grave loss suffered by the club in his untimely death.

PROFESSOR AGNES HEADLAM-MORLEY

Professor Agnes Headlam-Morley, who died on February 21 at the age of 83, was the first woman to hold a chair at Oxford University when she was elected Montague Burton Professor of International Relations in 1948.

She was born on December 10, 1902, the only daughter of Sir James Wycliffe Headlam-Morley, who was Historical Adviser to the Foreign Office and whose *Studies in Diplomatic History* she edited with her only brother Kenneth, in 1930.

She retained throughout her life a great respect for the work of her father and in 1972 produced an edition of his *Memoirs of the Peace Conference of Paris*.

Agnes Headlam-Morley went to Wimbledon High School and Somerville College, Oxford. In 1932 she was elected a fellow and tutor of St Hugh's College and taught and lectured with great vigour in Modern History and Politics. She was an excellent tutor and was much in demand as a teacher.

She insisted on high standards; she was witty, enthusiastic and provocative, and she took endless trouble with good and bad pupils alike.

Throughout the war she took a heavy burden of examining to fill the gap left by the absence of so many of her colleagues. It was perhaps partly the strain of these years to which may be attributed the origins of the ill-health which overtook her comparatively soon after her election to the professorship. Her tenure of the chair was interrupted by treatment for tuberculosis and her capacity for sustained work was never to be what it had been in the years before the war.

Nonetheless she retained her formidable spirit and enthusiasm for her subject. She took great time and trouble in preparing her lectures and was a devoted supervisor of a large number of research students.

Her inaugural lecture was delivered before a large audience and made a deep impression, not least for its fearless assertion of her moral and religious beliefs (she had been received into the Roman Catholic Church in 1948).

In addition to the editions of her father's work, a valuable study of the constitution-making after the First World War, *New Democratic Constitutions of Europe* appeared in 1929 and in 1970 an interesting essay in *The History Makers*, edited by Sir John Wheeler-Bennet and Lord Longford, on Gustav Stresemann, a figure whom she much admired. She contributed to the Longford Report on pornography in 1976.

She was an unforgettable teacher and was held in affection by her colleagues who admired her gallant spirit, personal distinction, independence and integrity.

She was elected an Hon Fellow of Somerville in 1948 and of St Hugh's in 1970.

GENERAL JACQUES de BOLLARDIERE

General Jacques Paris de Bollardiere, who died on February 21 at the age of 78, was a hero of the French Resistance, who later became known for his pacifist and anti-nuclear views.

Born in 1907, he served in the Foreign Legion from 1935 to 1939 and after the fall of France escaped to England where he was trained by the Special Operations Executive's Gaullist section.

On April 11/12 he parachuted into the Ardennes on a mission called Citronelle, his task being to arm and train the local Maquis. On the night of the Normandy landings, more agents were dropped in, bringing his missions' strength up to 12. A huge influx of recruits gave them plenty of work as well as danger.

A week later a major German attack split his largest maquis, and a hundred prisoners from it were shot.

He himself escaped and went on with clandestine work in the neighbourhood until the United States First Army

overran the area in early September.

He commanded French airborne troops in Indochina between 1950 and 1953 before being sent to Algeria in 1956. In March 1957 he was asked to be relieved of his command in protest at the use of torture on Algerian rebels. He was confined to quarters for 60 days before being transferred to the command of a unit in Cameroon.

He became a reservist in 1961 and began to speak out against militarism and nuclear weapons. In 1973 he joined a non-violent protest expedition against French nuclear testing at Mururoa.

A prime mover in the movement for a non-violent alternative was an unsuccessful candidate for the Greens pacifist-ecology party at the European elections in 1984.

He was the author of several works including *Bataille d'Alger, Bataille de l'Homme* (1972) and *Le bataillon de la paix* (1974).

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THE ARTS

Andrew Rissik reviews the weekend's television and, a year on from EastEnders, Mark Lawson assesses the impact of Michael Grade

Shrewd aim at the toughest targets

On BBC1, the channel controlled by Mr Michael Grade, there has recently been a series called *The Marriage*. A young couple were followed by the cameras from first passion to first anniversary while everyone assessed the strength and likely length of their union. Mr Grade is in a position to sympathize: the marriage between himself, an aggressive scheduler with theories gleaned from years with ITV, and the august and crusty BBC has been subjected to the same curious scrutiny.

This week sees the first anniversary of the revival of the schedules centred around *EastEnders* and *Wogan* — which have made Grade the highest-profile programmer in British television. It is time to take up the invitation he made at the launch of those programmes last February: "Don't expect miracles. Give these changes a year and then see what difference they have made."

If figures are significant, they have been. At his critics, *EastEnders*, the first new soap opera to challenge the *Coronation Street* monopoly, occupied places one to 10 in the British Audience Research Board list of last month's most-watched programmes. The BBC produced 17 of the Christmas top-20 shows and 57 of the top 100 for the first week of January, and have clawed towards, and sometimes beyond, a 50-50 split of the total audience available to BBC and ITV. For the BBC, these are figures which previously only happened to other people.

If your criterion is quality, the equation is more problematic. There have been accusations that Grade has brought to the BBC cheque-book television, a cash-for-trash mentality, that the BBC will overflow with soap and shows in which Paul Daniels cuts Samantha Fox in half and that Grade has a down on drama, arts and current affairs. Twelve months ago "low-grade" was the fashionable tag for BBC1 but, of late, the Jeremiahs have been silent.

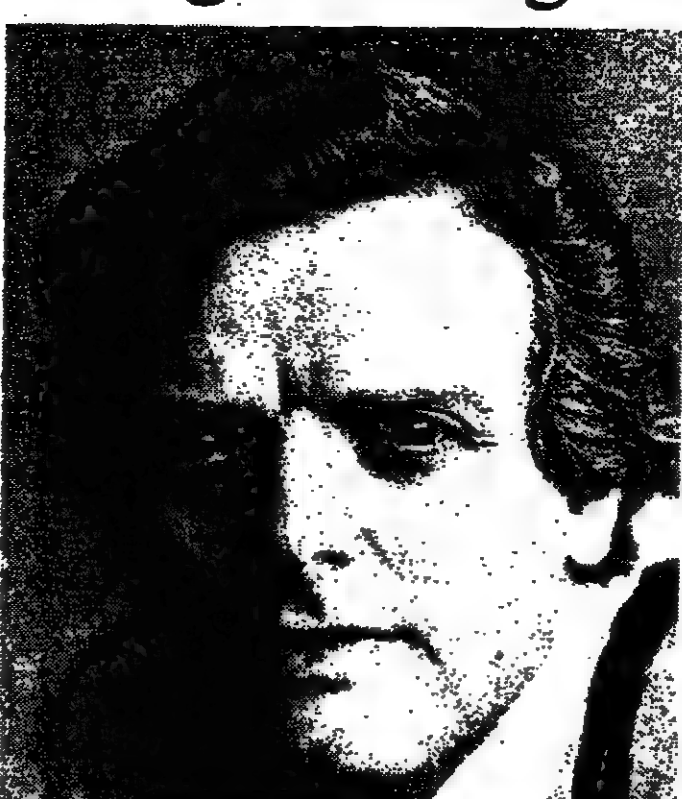
Consider his two main innovations. Doubt has been cast on the

figures for *EastEnders* (it has the advantage, unlike its ITV rivals, of a weekend repeat) but it is, for me, considerably better written and more obviously tailored to the Eighties than *Coronation Street*. It should be remembered that Grade, in seeking to create a popular twice-weekly soap opera, chose the hardest target in the market. Granada Television's own attempts to find a stablemate for *Coronation Street* — with the bi-weekly series *The Practice* and *Albion Market* — hit a quicksand of indifference; the former will return as one-hour dramas on the *General Hospital* model and the latter was switched from peak-time to daytime after falling ratings.

The achievement of *Wogan* is more open to debate. Almost everything the show has proved is inadvertent and to its own disadvantage: how boring talk becomes, how Wogan knocks conversations into monologues for himself and how slender is the set of genuinely interesting celebrities. Grade is staunch in his support of the show, hinting at *Wogan* five nights a week, but it bears signs of tiredness already and the best that can be said is that it has survived a year, probably longer than many felt likely, and that an average audience of nine million is respectable.

Many have attempted to present Grade as a cultural thug. That is nonsense and his record at London Weekend Television disproves it: as the zany game-shows and the top-and-bottom series if you like, but remember *The South Bank Show* and *Weekend World* and, in drama, an Alan Bennett sextet and a Dennis Potter trilogy. The cleverness of Grade's scheduling at LWT was its balance between pap to satisfy advertisers and higher-quality products.

But *Wogan* and *EastEnders* alone would represent a recovery as temporary and cosmetic as a toupee. The real achievement of Grade's first year is that he, as a specialist scheduler, has broadened the audience for shows



Michael Grade: astonishing — if not miraculous — achievement

which he was expected to jettison. *Panorama*, trimmed by 10 minutes and moved to after the main evening news, was seen as a victim of Grade's philistinism; in fact, its audience doubled. Grade claimed to have given it "more money and more programme" and its recent run has been up to or above the quality of before.

He points out, for those who sounded alarms about drama, that BBC1 will this year transmit serials by Britain's two best television playwrights: Dennis Potter's *The Singing Detective* and Alan Bleasdale's *The Monocled Man*.

But there are thorns in the garden as well. Grade has faults which the BBC would do well to check. He is an unashamed salesman and American soap opera sells well, but you can have

too much; to transmit, as he will from March 5, *Dallas* on Wednesday with *Dynasty* and *Dynasty II* on alternate Fridays, is to make Britain a soap-dish for the American network.

The BBC still has many problems. As ratings have soared, morale has fallen; the *Real Live* affair and the suspension of two journalists from the current-affairs series *Rough Justice* have apparently made the upper echelons tremulous about upsetting anyone. The very success of Grade's schedules has intensified uncertainty about the BBC's role.

Is programming now motivated by ratings-chasing? If Mr Grade will fight ITV in the schedules, then why not in the market-place for advertising? Though back on course, the BBC needs careful steering. — M.L.

Concert

Music on the boil

BBCSO/Eötvös
BBC Maida Vale

Musical enterprise from the BBC is not exactly news, but this season's crop of invitation Concerts is proving something special. On Saturday night the invitation was to the Maida Vale studios, where the BBCSO were conducted by Peter Eötvös in three works, beginning with Michael Finnissy's *Sea and Sky* for large forces.

No more than *La Mer* is it a picture drawn from nature: indeed its ferocity, its clamour of notes over a wide register, often boiling at the top with trumpets, and its finally independent clarinet solo all seem purely musical phenomena, not requiring explanation.

Christoph Delz's Piano Concerto, on the other hand,

insists on being interpreted. After a first movement notable for grasping gestures from the composer/soloist, low strings and percussion, the second is a homage to Beethoven which could easily be imagined as an accompaniment to one of his films, involving, perhaps, a giant guitar with a hundred hands scrambling over it, a cellist playing from a minaret, a concert in an aircraft hangar and any number of melting but still ticking watches. Delz is clearly an original.

Hughes Dufourt's talent is less surprising, emerging almost inevitably from the mix of Xenakis and Messiaen, but it was worth hearing his flute concerto *Antithesis* when played with such a narrow, elegant pencil line as it was here by Istvan Matuz.

Paul Griffiths

Opera

Madam Butterfly
Coliseum

Graham Vick's much-admired production has a new Butterfly for this revival: the Polish soprano Magdalena Falwicz, making her English National Opera debut. She is above all a sophisticated actress, not entirely credible as a naive 15-year-old perhaps but revealing great psychological insight in Act II where the conflicting pulls of self-delusion, love, despair and dignity are movingly conveyed.

She is best, vocally, in a well-focused and vibrant middle range. The falling phrases for "One Fine Day" expose a slightly underpowered low register, and her highest notes are variable.

As Pinkerton, Roland Sidwell also had mixed fortunes among the legions (although both singers were in ardently lyrical voice for the big Act I duet). Sidwell, however, acts well and looks right

— burly, crass and desperately short of moral fibre — and his direct, ingenious vocal manner is potentially ideal for the part.

The other roles are also strongly sung. Anne-Marie Owen's gloomy, suspicious Suzuki is a characterization of considerable stature, a worthy oriental counterpart to Norman Bailey's opprobrious, solidly-sung Sharpless. As the Bonze, Richard Angus projects a chilly physical presence but not enough of the text; Terry Jenkins, however, is suitably oily and odious as Goro — an excellent cameo.

In the pit the experienced James Lockhart concentrates on subtle, often delicate orchestral textures, well-tailored phrasing and generally exemplary rapport with his singers. His approach perfectly complements Vick's handsome staging, which — for all its clever touches — makes its final appeal straight to the heart, just as it should.

Richard Morrison

Simon Banner reports from Paris on the National Theatre's contribution to the Théâtre de l'Europe season

The trick of being calmly nervous

Enter Tom Stoppard stage right, stepping into the murky, green light, and pacing the stage carefully as if to measure it. Staggering on and caught in a wild embrace with an ugly-looking bearskin, a stage-hand appears to be searching for somewhere to offload his burden. The contraption which hovers above — a group of clouds, a trident and a shield decorated with the Union Jack — begins to rise and descend crazily. Somewhere "Rule Britannia" is struck up. Meanwhile, picking his way between an industrial vacuum cleaner, a dead body and a wheelchair, Stoppard exits stage left pursued by stage-hand and bear.

Not altogether surprisingly, Edward Petherbridge furrows his brow. "At this point it always looks as if it will never come together, doesn't it?" But he turns to Ian McKellen (who, along with Petherbridge himself, is co-director of one of the five distinct groups which now make up the National Theatre) and adds gloomily that "Perhaps it won't come together this time after all".

What should have been coming together was the Petherbridge-McKellen production of *The Real Inspector Hound* and *The Critic*, due to open 24 hours later at the Odéon in Paris. The actors had only just flown in from London and were now, late in the evening, due to see the Odéon for the first time.

"No showers!" What about the mirrors? But each observation had the corollary that "at least it's a better theatre than the Odéon". And more attractive too, richly decorated in red and gold, hung with chandeliers. It is left to Eleanor Bron unwittingly to make the most dramatic entrance of all. Dressed in black, topped by a skyscraper of a



Total panic — or maybe not: Ian McKellen as the Hound

conscious of what is expected of it, Ian McKellen believes the company to be "calmly nervous". "We have to recognize what a tremendous honour it is for us to be invited here at all, because, while Britain has been standing still culturally over the last few years, the French have been busy making Paris the cultural capital of Europe. And here we are, invited to be at the very heart of things."

With just a few hours to go before curtain-up, there are more immediate worries than the decline of British theatre. In a converted office, the company's wig mistress and her team are fretfully combing and teasing life back into the 37 wigs they have brought over with them, at the same time as pondering on the possibility of successful co-ordination of the evening's many rapid costume and wig changes. "Trying to work it out is like doing a crossword at the same time."

"They're not going to be able to hear from up here," shouts Sheila Hancock, pretending to be an audience in one of the boxes. "Nor see," she adds cheerily. "There's a little time left for a run-through," says Stoppard, "we're just going to have to put the lights on and do the show." "I'm afraid 'Rule Britannia' has to be faster!" says Hancock.

"If you want my opinion," as one of the critics in *Hound* puts it as the curtain is about to rise, "it's total panic back there." Or maybe not. Because, as the company hits its stride, particularly with the neatly executed pantomime of *The Critic*, and apart from the occasional whispered enquiry heard among the audience, the significance of a language barrier in the theatre is generally exaggerated. This is borne out by the enthusiastic first night response. "This is what the Théâtre de l'Europe is all about — there's good and bad theatre, but really fine theatre works for any audience." "They understood it, didn't they?" says Tristram Wymara, amazedly. Nation speaks to nation and Edward Petherbridge claims to have a whole new perspective on the Channel Tunnel. All this from what a few hours ago looked like the jaws of defeat.

Dance

Radiant Fonteyn

The Sleeping Beauty
Miami Beach, Florida

Dame Margot Fonteyn's flying visit to Miami Beach to appear with the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet in *The Sleeping Beauty* was no ordinary dance occasion. Her association with this particular ballet goes back some 47 years — when the Thakurk/Potter then almost youthful dancer was itself one year shy of its own half-century. And her Miami appearances came almost 40 years to the day — February 20, 1946 — after she helped rescue the Royal Opera House at that epoch-making Royal Gala, with the historic *Sleeping Beauty* that embodied Oliver Messel's stylized vision of fairyland.

Peter Wright's recent staging of *The Sleeping Beauty* replaces Messel's fantasy with the more sombre finery of Philip Prowse. Even more significantly, Dame Margot, the world's Aurora, who had danced the role more often than any other ballerina in history ever had or almost certainly ever will, was now, for the first time, the Queen.

Dame Margot's appearance was not unattractively taken as an event. Her Majesty's Ambassador came from Washing-

ton to attend her debut, and the *Miami Herald* noted the next day that Fonteyn was "looking radiant... acting with her legendary grace."

Her appearance did not seem surprising. After all she still remains listed officially as the Royal Ballet's one and only *prima ballerina assoluta* and her nature was always modest rather than retiring. Also she is not a complete stranger to the quieter realm of mime role — a few years ago in New York she played Lady Capulet for the Ballet of La Scala, Milan. But even that lacked the poignancy and charm of this new assumption.

How was she? She was radiant. What other word could there be? — after all, it once characterized the Aurora that woke up the entire world of dance. So it can well serve another turn.

She was an Aurora's mother who got more applause on entrance than some Auroras get on exit. She behaved impeccably. Her acting proved studiously unexaggerated, completely attuned to the suave authority of her King — himself a long-time dancing partner, Desmond Kelly.

She accepted her roses with the moist eyes of pleasure. She still walked in beauty, the way a star danced at her birth.

Clive Barnes

Royal Ballet
Covent Garden

I can never understand why a company as steeped in tradition as the Royal Ballet lacks sense of occasion. Last week it marked the fortieth anniversary of its move to Covent Garden, reopening the Opera House after the war, with a nondescript triple bill that can hardly be claimed to make a coherent or satisfying whole since neither musically, dramatically nor stylistically do its parts have anything to do with one another.

I suppose it makes sense to get as much mileage as possible out of *Frankenstein* before audiences notice that Wayne Eagling's flamboyant use of stage tricks thinly covers a lack of any attribute likely to give it staying power. His choreography simply recycles familiar steps. Neither Eagling nor the more glamorous Ashley Page can adequately substitute for the dramatic flair which Stephen Jefferys (sadly now injured) previously gave the title part. Last season's cheers are notably missing. By my applause meter (alias ears), *Gloria* is the evening's most popular part. It is easy to see why, since it combines three infallible themes: war, sex and religion. Poulenc's music provides the plecty while Andy Clunder's designs set the action in a sharply stylized but unmistakable evocation of

First World War trenches where men stand or rest anxious and waiting for the next attack. Kenneth MacMillan gives the pale ghosts and flayed corpses that make up the cast some of his most erotic choreography as they recall lost pleasures.

The partnering work is smoother and less strained than MacMillan sometimes imposes, whether in the adagio for two or three dancers or the allegro acrobatics for three men and a woman. Jennifer Peacey, Julian Hosking and Wendy Ellis repeat their success in the roles made for them, and Fiona Chadwick made a good debut in Peacey's part. Eagling, in the other main role, acts intensely but his solos have lost some of their energy.

Separating these two disparate works, David Bintley's *Consort Lessons* offers some of his most assured adagio choreography (handsomely done by Lesley Collier and Fiona Chadwick on successive nights) and allegro dances that contain striking and felicitous passages. Bintley asks a fair turn of speed from his dancers, but there is nothing exorbitant in what he expects, and there seems no excuse for the sloppy footwork, lack of forcefulness and lack of finish which some of them showed.

John Percival

Rock

Feargal Sharkey Hammersmith Odeon

Who would have predicted, when young Feargal Sharkey was still singing with the evergreen Underones that he would one day turn out to be such a suave musical sophisticate? For when his former group threw in the towel, following a run of modest chart entries between 1978 and 1981, it was their spontaneous, gauche approach, untrammelled by any hint of calculating music-business acumen, for which they were most fondly remembered.

But times change. With the confidence of a No 1 hit behind him, and the aura of a man who has tasted the fruits of "crossover" appeal, Sharkey strode purposefully to the

microphone, while his superbly drilled 10-piece soul revue band cracked down hard on the Motown beat of his most recent hit, "You Little Thief".

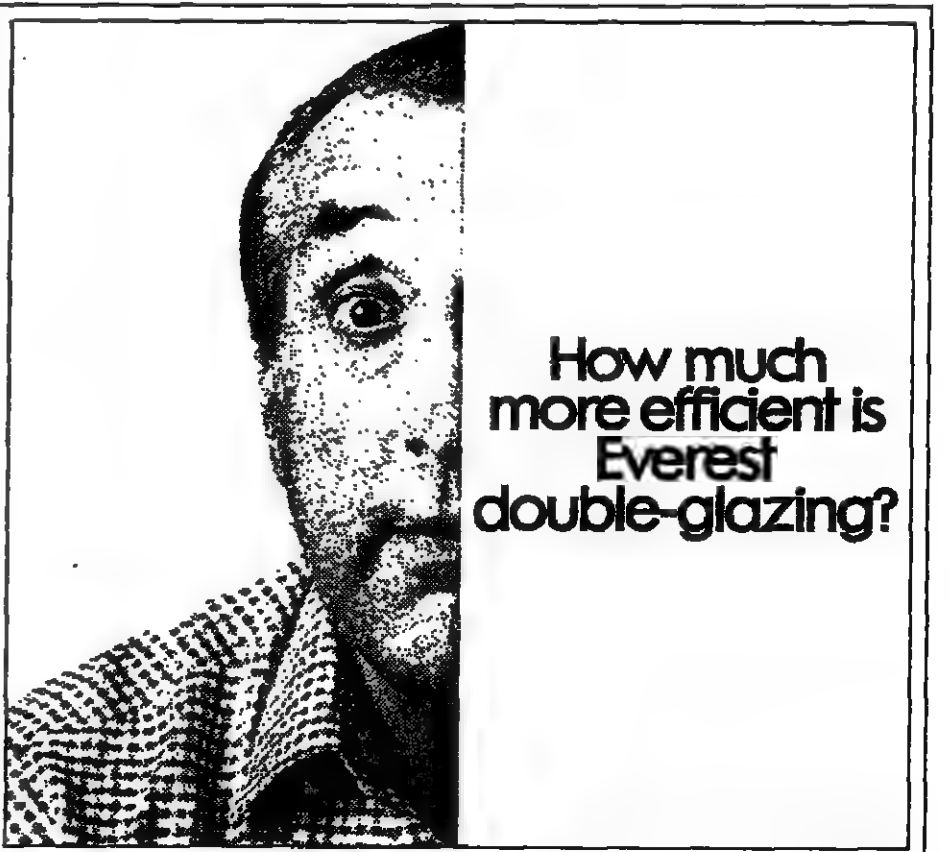
His voice, however, remains a constant factor in a career which now looks as well groomed as his gorgeous flowing locks. With his high, warm timbre he still struck a siren note of brooding angst over the supper-club funk of "Bitter Man" and the designer soul of "Don't Leave it to Nature", while occasionally, as when he stalked the front row during "Ashes and Diamonds", looking like a figure from *Macbeth*, the awkward energy of his old Bush Street Kid persona reasserted itself.

His band were strikingly good; essentially a cohesive backing unit, they stuck to crisp, tidy arrangements. Davey Payne's brief saxophone solos and Graham

Pointer's rare guitar breaks remaining firmly bedded in a mix of compact-disc accuracy. With no one musician to the fore, attention was constantly drawn to the superlative drive and precision of Jeff Dunn's drumming.

The nagging singalong melody of "A Good Heart" was delivered with an impressive clout, and, whatever reservations may be felt about Sharkey's induction into the high-gloss echelons of production pop, there was no doubting the conviction of this performance. Capable performances of Percy Sledge's "When a Man Loves a Woman" and Bob and Earl's "Harlem Shuffle", two of the most taxing soul classics for both singer and band, provided an admirable and uplifting finale.

David Sinclair



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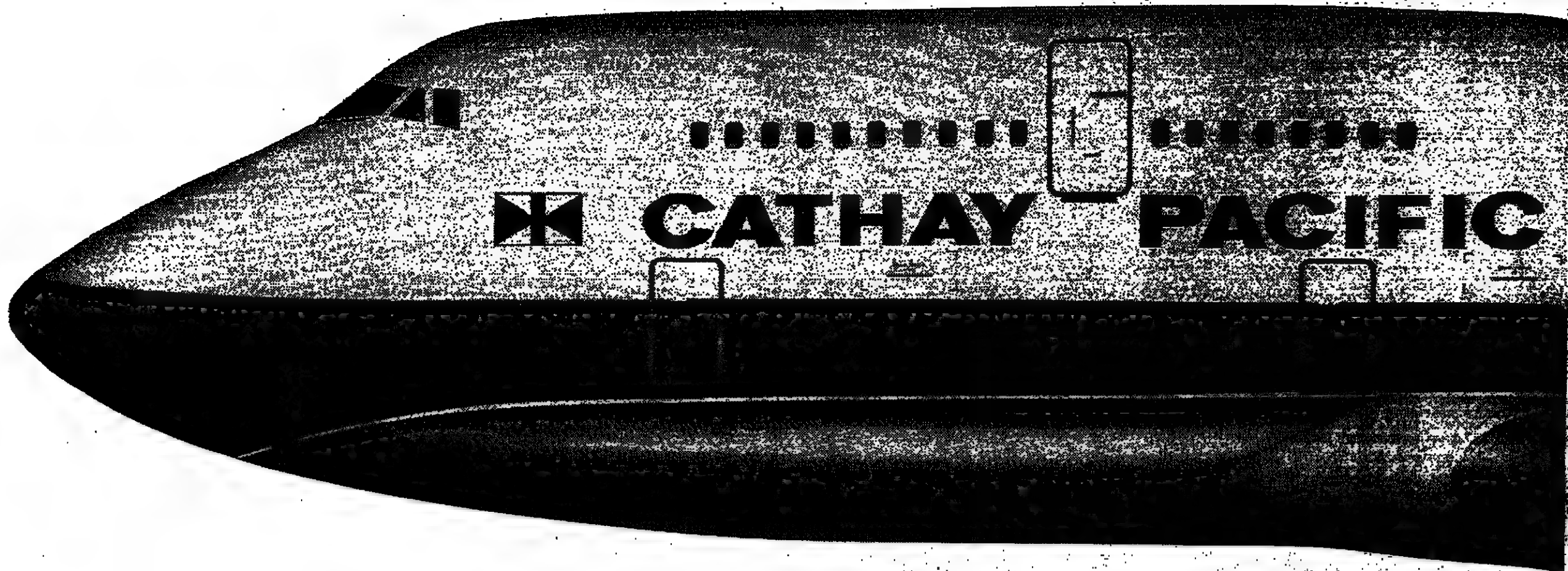
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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

US NOTEBOOK

Dangers in Volcker policy

From Maxwell Newton, New York

Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, in his evidence to Congress, has made it clear that he intends to protect the dollar. It has fallen far enough, he said. Let us be clear about this — any move by a central bank to protect the value of its currency must involve a restrictive monetary policy in the domestic economy. There is no other means for a central bank to "protect" its currency.

I have recently referred to the sense of shame felt by central bank officials if and when it is their lot to preside over a weak currency. Because of the growing weakness of the US economy, in the second half of 1984 the dollar began to lose its strength in February, 1985. But, as a result of internal pressures from the conflicting interests of exporting and importing interests, Mr James Baker, US Treasury Secretary, pulled off the coup of the first G5 meeting. Mr Volcker never approved this policy. Since September he has cut the rate of money growth in half, and has done roughly the same to the adjusted monetary base.

Mr Volcker has never taken part in the G5 process. He has been totally pre-occupied with an imaginary inflationary threat, as his testimony to Congress showed. He has backed up this policy with his 8 per cent federal funds policy. The question that springs to mind is: Will Mr Volcker's tight money policy protect the dollar from further major declines?

It is possible that, in attempting to protect the dollar (and avoid the inflationary possibilities of a weakening dollar), Mr Volcker will set in train forces which will have the effect of devaluing the dollar still further.

There are reasons for believing this to be the case. Mr Volcker's increasingly restrictive monetary policy will weaken the US economy, making it a much less attractive place for foreigners to invest. He virtually said as much in his testimony when he declared that the Japanese must take steps to accelerate the growth of their domestic economy. The clear inference was that the US can no longer be the "locomotive" for the rest of the world.

By placing the primary emphasis of policy on disinflation, Mr Volcker has increased the likelihood of further reductions in US interest rates. Indeed, it is possible that by early 1987 the medium to long-term yield on US bonds will be 7 per cent. This rate will certainly not contribute to a strong dollar.

In other words, Mr Volcker's tight money policy and his 8 per cent federal funds policy are likely to have just the opposite effect from that presumably intended. And this will not be the first time that, by attempting to "tighten the market" with an unrealistic federal funds rate, the central bank has produced perverse results.

Mr Volcker's "disinflationary determination" as part of his plan to protect the currency is likely to lead to an accelerated devaluation of the dollar.

Exco in £1bn merger talks with Morgan Grenfell

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Morgan Grenfell, the most important merchant bank remaining in private hands, is having exploratory talks with Exco, the financial conglomerate, which "may or may not lead to a merger," the bank confirmed last night.

If approved by shareholders and the Bank of England, the merger would create a group capitalised at about £1 billion with a strong position in banking and corporate finance, stockbroking, gilt-edged dealing and money and currency broking.

Talks have been taking place for a few weeks and leaked out over the weekend. If they came to fruition, Exco would take over the Morgan Grenfell group, with each side ending up with about half the enlarged group.

Exco is valued on the Stock Exchange at about £550 million and has some £350 million cash since selling its controlling stake in Telerate, the US financial information group, last year.

Mr John Gunn, who built up the group, then left following arguments over his ambitious takeover plans and the group has been thought to be in search of a future since last autumn.

A merger with Morgan Grenfell would give the banking group the capital it needs to expand its dealing business after the Stock Exchange big bang this autumn.

It has bought the gilt-edged broker Pember & Boyle and the jobber Pinchin Denny. Mr Christopher Reeves, Morgan Grenfell's chief executive, said yesterday that the bank had originally been approached by Exco.

Exco's biggest shareholder, Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puan, the Malaysian businessman, and



Christopher Reeves: "Exco made the first move"

his colleague Mr Alan Ng are in London for an Exco board meeting to discuss the deal.

Mr Ng said yesterday that the concept of the merger was interesting but that they awaited the financial details. "The important thing is whether it

is in the interests of Exco shareholders," he said.

The Bank of England may, however, be the biggest stumbling block. Under the so-called O'Brien letter, promulgated in the early seventies, the Bank insists that a bank should not own more than 10 per cent of a money broker. Money broking is Exco's biggest business although it also owns the WICO Far East stockbroking business.

Preliminary talks have been held at the Bank of England but the Bank confirmed yesterday that the separation doctrine still stands at the request of the market. Mr Reeves said yesterday that Morgan did only 0.07 per cent of its business with Exco.

If the Bank insists on the separation, the deal may not go ahead. Mr Reeves insisted yesterday that other options were available.

Efficiency of BA criticized

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

British Airways' improved profitability may be financially attractive to the Government in the run-up to the airline's privatization, but it is not necessarily indicative of improved efficiency, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

The institute says in its quarterly journal that BA's improved performance is primarily based on the substantial reductions in its labour force, from 56,000 in 1980 to 36,000 in 1984.

This does not necessarily imply an equally dramatic increase in productivity, because of the possibility of substituting other factors of production for labour, of increasing the contracting out of work, and of changing the output mix.

The institute also stresses that in relation to BA's performance, other airlines, notably British Caledonian, Lufthansa, Alitalia, Japan Airlines and Singapore Airlines, have also increased productivity.

British Airways has improved its relative position, although starting from well behind the competition, the report says.

"Its degree of improvement has been good, but not spectacular, and it remains one of the poorer performers."

Under the plan a company, at the moment called Newco, will take over all the ITC's obligations and the stocks, amounting to 85,000 tonnes of the currently valued at £500 million. In return the ITC will be relieved of its debts and its bullion stock operation will cease.

New deal could end tin crisis

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

Agreement to end the tin crisis, which is about to enter its fifth month, could be reached this week after intensive discussions over the weekend produced an outline settlement which will be put to banks, brokers and International Tin Council members today.

ITC and bank sources said that the proposed deal is very close to the original Newco plan put forward just before Christmas by Mr Peter Graham, senior deputy chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, and Mr Ralph Kesteven, managing director of the broker Gerald Metcalfe.

If a deal is signed this week, the trading on the London Metal Exchange should resume by the middle of next month, March 17 is a possible date.

The outline deal was reached at 2am on Saturday after 10 hours of negotiations between the ITC and representatives of its creditor banks and brokers. ITC and bank sources admitted that minds had been concentrated by fears that the weak tin price could undermine the economics of Newco.

Under the plan a company, at the moment called Newco, will take over all the ITC's obligations and the stocks, amounting to 85,000 tonnes of the currently valued at £500 million. In return the ITC will be relieved of its debts and its bullion stock operation will cease.

The council's gross debts are £900 million.

Mr Graham and Mr Kesteven envisaged the ITC contributing £200 million to Newco's capitalization of £770 million. Sources close to the negotiations said, however, that the final ITC contribution will be a little short of £125 million. The banks and brokers will put up £100 million and the British Government £50 million.

The outline deal suggests that the Newco board will have a banker as chairman, with two bankers and two brokers on the board. Another two directors are reserved for ITC members, but they are divided on who wants to sit.

Board representation is important not only because of the tin Newco has also because of its assets from prosecution. Some ITC members fear that board membership will leave them open to legal proceedings.

The ITC and the banks and brokers had to agree to disavow an immunity clause which says that ITC members maintain their sovereign immunity while their creditors believe otherwise. There is a gentleman's agreement not to sue each other.

The other crucial issue during the negotiations was the policy for disposing of Newco's tin. In principle the outline agreement says that about 8 per cent of the holdings should be sold each month over three years. But this timetable can be varied to allow for price movements. In practice, Newco's tin and disposal policy will be determined by the board.

Iran plea on oil output

In the first sign of a split in the ranks of the Organization of Exporting Countries over the fall in the oil price, Iran's oil minister, Mr Gholamreza Azadeh, has called for a temporary halt to oil production — for two weeks or more — to be followed by a co-ordinated cut in production by the 13-member cartel.

Mr Azadeh said that if there were no such measures to limit output "an uncontrollable crisis would be created."

Spot crude oil prices fell to \$13.50 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange on Saturday, the lowest since 1978.

SEC acts to end bid rumours

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US Securities and Exchange Commission, alarmed by the dramatic shift in the share price of large companies, has launched an investigation to prevent stock manipulators planning illegal rumours on Wall Street.

Over the past year, when markets have been booming and corporate takeover activity has risen sharply, company after company has fallen victim to a series of carefully planted rumours which have earned large profits for a small group of big investors, the SEC said.

The case of Pennzoil, the oil firm involved in a multi-million dollar legal dispute with Texaco, was cited by the SEC in the first public hearing on the problem.

On January 7, following a news wire report that Texaco had offered to buy the company for \$100 a share, Pennzoil's stock took off, rising from \$63.37 to \$83 a share. Speculators who had bought options on the stock, which jumped from \$37.50 to \$102.50, made a profit of almost 3000 per cent.

But the next day, when both companies denied the rumour, Pennzoil's price dropped from a high of \$91 to \$74.50 at the close and the option price for 100 Pennzoil shares at \$75 a share plummeted to \$40.

The SEC is investigating the incident to determine who started the rumour and who profited.

The Pennzoil episode is apparently not an isolated case. In October fortnight last year, 20 companies were falsely rumoured to be takeover targets, according to Mr Gary Lynch, the SEC's chief enforcement director.

But the SEC will find it difficult to stop the practice. For example, officials from the big exchanges and from Wall Street firms met in Washington last week but could not agree on the definition of an illegal rumour.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The election pattern set by oil and coal

By 1988 (election year, remember?) the Government may have cause to be grateful to not one, but two groups of energy producers. Between them, the miners and Opec have reshaped the pattern of economic growth through Mrs Thatcher's second term.

What they have done between them, in effect, is to damp down the impact on Britain of America's fearful struggles to rebalance its trade position. This had threatened to be the dominant, depressive influence on the world economy between 1984 and 1988. We have already seen the first consequences: as American growth was checked, the whole world slowed down. The growth of world output fell by half between 1984 and 1985.

In Britain, however, this slowdown was conveniently disguised by the economy's rebound from the miners' strike, to an extent that was finally revealed just last week. The output estimates for 1985 record growth of about 3½ per cent, up half a point from 1984. Strip out the rebound from the miners' strike, however, and there was actually a fall in growth from 4 per cent in 1984 to a mere 2½ per cent in 1985.

Had the miners not unwittingly concealed this slowdown, Mr Nigel Lawson's differences with — for example — the Confederation of British Industry might have been a good deal sharper. But with this convenient Scargill effect now out of the statistics, he faced new difficulties in keeping the growth ball rolling. This year might have been just good enough; but not 1987. Then began "Opec Three".

The pessimists (notably in the international financial institutions) still fear that the falling oil price will not do enough to counterbalance American retrenchment. They are worried that the world will react to the huge shifts in purchasing power involved in "Opec Three" very much as it did in the opposite shifts in "Opecs One and Two". When the oil producers jacked up their prices, the losers were forced to cut other imports, while the winners pocketed their gains and increased their trade surpluses: a combination that pushed the world into recession.

The most obvious winners from a falling oil price are Japan and West Germany, America and France; and there is indeed some danger that the first two will simply run up even larger balance of payments surpluses, while the third will go on trying to cut its deficit. Meanwhile, some of the debt-ridden losers will be forced to make painful adjustments; in the usual fashion of economic fate, the good news is slower acting than the bad. But there are some rather important differences between the previous Opec crises and today's.

First of all, a falling, as opposed to a rising, oil price increases the real value of money balances worldwide and thus boosts world wealth and world demand overall. Second, as the price of energy falls, it automatically makes productive capacity that had to be mothballed as the oil price rose economic to use again: no sensible estimates exist of the extent of this spare capacity, but it would be absurd to suppose there will be no boost to supply.

This is the secure foundation for optimism about Opec Three. The effects on Britain are a little more convoluted. They are usefully teased out in the latest forecasts of the London Business School, published today.

Its ready reckoner suggested that every \$5 off the oil price adds roughly half of 1 per cent to Britain's output.

in the first year, and more than 1 per cent in the second and third years, while paring a point off the inflation rate in the first year. The mechanism is a fall in the exchange rate, which boosts competitiveness and thus Britain's opportunity to take advantage of the world trade.

The LBS's first caveat is that the advantage can easily be destroyed by government, if it raises interest rates to prevent the fall in the pound. That lesson certainly seems to have been absorbed by the British Treasury.

The second caveat, however, is that industry can throw the advantage away with equal ease.

During Opecs One and Two, it was industry that first felt the strain: costs rose, profits fell, before prices adjusted. In the same way, it is now industry that will get first bite at the Opec cherry. It is the immediate boost to company profits from a falling oil price that provides the latest excuse for believing the stock market's present party can carry on. The economic question is whether companies eventually respond to the stimulus of higher profits by investing and expanding, or whether the boost to the economy is dispersed through consumer purchases of still more imports.

It is daft to suppose that there should be no deterioration in Britain's balance of payments after a fall in the oil price. What is important, however, is that we should maintain our market share in manufactured trade.

The LBS is cheerfully optimistic about this: indeed it suggests that the tide of disaster has already turned, and that Britain's share of world trade has held up surprisingly well over the past five years. So its new forecast is a good deal more cheering than the projections it made last autumn; and would be brighter still at an oil price of \$15, rather than the \$20 cautiously assumed. What is even more interesting is that the shape of the forecast has changed dramatically.

Last October, the LBS suggested modest growth in 1986 would fade further in 1987, from 2.4 per cent this year to 2.1 per cent next. Now, by contrast, it is suggesting a bounce. Its growth forecast for 1986 is unchanged, the benefit of lower oil prices is partly offset by the Chancellor's struggle to hold down public borrowing, and the LBS assumes he has no scope for tax cuts.

The LBS's forecast for 1987, however, now shows a growth rate of nearly 3 per cent. Supposing this pattern to be roughly correct, the effect of Opec Three will have been to reshape Mrs Thatcher's second term, from a steady decline in economic growth to a modest economic cycle in which a mild growth-recession is followed by a conveniently timed recovery.

The same rearrangement can be seen in the LBS's inflation forecast. Last October, it forecast 4.3 per cent inflation this year, increasing modestly but steadily to 4.6 per cent in 1987. Now it is forecasting 3.8 per cent inflation in 1986, dropping next year to 3.3 per cent.

And unemployment? Well, that too is expected to fall; and a shift from capital-intensive oil production to relatively labour-intensive manufacturing would certainly help. But the decline in the number of jobs is still slow. The LBS adds its influence to the growing pressure for understanding of the problem of hard-core unemployment.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

Why food stores are having a thin time

The food retailing sector has significantly underperformed the rest of the market in recent weeks. This repeats the pattern in all but three years of the previous decade, as the excitement of Christmas dies down, and reflects a lack of company announcements to push the shares to even higher ratings.

This year, however, the decline in the price of oil has provided further downward pressure. Consumer spending forecasts have been lowered as the outlook for interest rates and possible tax cuts has worsened.

Food retailers' profits are nearly all from Britain, and the deteriorating outlook for sterling has also reduced the sector's short-term earnings prospects compared with companies with major export or overseas interests.

Thus the food retailers have underperformed the market by 5.2 per cent since January 1, almost as bad as the oil sector, which has underperformed by 6.6 per cent. In the short-term, oil price movements are likely to remain the dominant factor in performance.

The strengths of the sector should not be forgotten, however. With increases in average earnings continuing to exceed the level of general inflation, real growth in British consumer spending of between 2 and 3 per cent is expected to be maintained

through 1986 and beyond. Although the food retailers are less highly geared to this than the non-food or "stores" sector, spending levels are important for sales of upmarket foods and non-food products.

Food price inflation averaged only 1.6 per cent in 1985 after the bumper harvest of 1984, and is showing some recovery (as measured by *The Grocer*), and this will be a further boost for sales and profits.

Falling oil prices are expected to stimulate the economy in the long term. Thus, although there is little to push the sector index higher in the short term, a solid base exists for future earnings growth.

The big is beautiful adage applies well to food retailing. The bigger groups wield enormous power over the manufacturers, securing significantly better prices and credit terms than their smaller rivals. This, with other economies of scale, makes it increasingly difficult for the less powerful operators to compete on price.

The top four quoted supermarket groups together now control about 40 per cent of the grocery market. The independents have lost market share, and the trend is likely to continue.

Legislation to relax shop hours this year would probably reinforce these changes, as evening and Sunday trading

has been mainly the preserve of independents.

The expansion-minded groups are competing for sites to build up their share before a saturation point is reached. With site costs rising dramatically, most members of the sector, with the notable exception of Kwik Save, are no longer cash generative.

This has, however, contributed to an easing of pricing pressures. With all available resources directed towards capital spending, no group is likely to initiate a price war like that by Tesco in 1977.

The economies of scale are also leading to considerable takeover activity within the sector, as the groups attempt to raise their sales through the acquisition of less powerful competitors.

The big three — Sainsbury, Tesco and Asda — would probably be prevented from acquiring smaller supermarket groups by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, but other companies, notably Argyl and Dees, have been rapidly increasing their buying power through acquisition.

The old businesses of Hinton's, Key Markets, Lemmons and International have all been absorbed into larger chains, and in the longer term it will become increasingly hard for the regional supermarket groups to remain independent. This explains the high ratings enjoyed by

Morrisons, Hilliards, William Low and Normans.

Other changes in market share stem from shifts in customer requirements. Increasing real wealth among those in employment has led to a demand for broader ranges of more attractively-presented products, with comparative prices becoming less of a factor.

Convenience is becoming even more important, particularly with the increasing number of women at work, and long-term outlook for market share depends mainly on location and size of store and the availability of car parking.

Thus, despite Asda's recent trading difficulties, its buying power and excellent site portfolio should help to ensure a good recovery in the longer term.

The rapid growth in the frozen food market over the past 10 years owes much to this increasing emphasis on convenience, and has been given a significant lift by the success of microwave ovens.

However, the frozen food specialists — particularly Bejam and Iceland — are likely to find it increasingly difficult to justify a separate shopping trip, and the major supermarket multiples could gain significant market share in this area.

The rise of the convenience store is part of this trend. Cullen's is the only quoted pure convenience store opera-

tor, although Guinness has identified this area as promising. Although such a store is never likely to provide for the weekly shopping, and is forced to charge significantly higher prices than the supermarket groups, the right location can lead to excellent turnover.

Market share for convenience stores is expected to rise, although they remain more vulnerable than most food retailers to any swings in consumer spending.

What of superstore saturation? It could renew price competition, possibly giving back some control to the manufacturers. What seems more likely is that the market will then be concentrated in so few hands that none would want to start a serious price war.

Instead, the strong cash flow could be used to diversify away from the food retailing sector. Some groups have already done this, for instance Asda with MFI and Sainsbury with Homebase. And Argyl has pursued Distillers.

Japanese criticized over whisky

The Scotch whisky industry will this week step up pressure on Japan to relax import restrictions, which it believes, are depressing sales to Japan by half.

Mr Bill Bewsher, director-general of the Scotch Whisky Association, told a press conference in Edinburgh at the weekend: "Japan can no longer

have it both ways. It is a major trading nation and if it wishes to have continued access to overseas markets it must allow products such as Scotch whisky to compete on fair and equal terms."

A delegation from the association, which is visiting Japan this week and is supported by the EEC, will urge Japan to

tax and apply duty on all spirits on the basis of alcohol content.

Despite the import constraints, annual exports of Scotch whisky to Japan are running at 15.3 million litres or 20 million bottles, and Japan remains the third largest export market for Scotch.

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The author is food retailing analyst at Herbert Weiss.

THE TIMES Portfolio

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6	Dubilier	
7	CASE	
8	Highland Elect	
9	Prin Catic Elect	
10	Stone Int	
11	Can Elect	
12	Buildings and Roads	
13	Midwoods	
14	Rayway	
15	Travis & Arnold	
16	Jarvis (J) & Son	
17	McAlpine (Alfred)	
18	SGS	
19	Perrenson	
20	Taylor Woodrow	
21	Amellif	
22	INDUSTRIALS A-D	
23	Avon Rubber	
24	Buran (DF)	
25	Crest Nicholson	
26	AGB Research	
27	Dyson (J) & J	
28	Copson (F)	
29	Asb & Lacey	
30	Dreck	
31	INDUSTRIALS E-Z	
32	TNT	
33	Speer (JW)	
34	Sandhurst	
35	Shoeb	
36	Wood (Arthur)	
37	Sieck	
38	Waterford Glass	
39	Transcontinental	
40	Sidlaw	

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Stock	Price	Change	Div	Yield
British Fund	100	+1.5	5.0	5.0%

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Stock	Price	Change	Div	Yield
British Fund	100	+1.5	5.0	5.0%

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Stock	Price	Change	Div	Yield
British Fund	100	+1.5	5.0	5.0%

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Stock	Price	Change	Div	Yield
British Fund	100	+1.5	5.0	5.0%

UNDATED

Stock	Price	Change	Div	Yield
British Fund	100	+1.5	5.0	5.0%

INDEX-LINKED

Stock	Price	Change	Div	Yield
British Fund	100	+1.5	5.0	5.0%

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Stock	Price	Change	Div	Yield
British Fund	100	+1.5	5.0	5.0%

BREWERIES

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
British Breweries	100	+1.5	5.0	5.0%

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
British Buildings	100	+1.5	5.0	5.0%

FINANCE AND LAND

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
British Finance	100	+1.5	5.0	5.0%

FOODS

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
British Foods	100	+1.5	5.0	5.0%

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
British Chemicals	100	+1.5	5.0	5.0%

CINEMAS AND TV

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
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DRAPERY AND STORES

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
British Drapery	100	+1.5	5.0	5.0%

ELECTRICALS

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
British Electricals	100	+1.5	5.0	5.0%

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
British Industrials	100	+1.5	5.0	5.0%

INDUSTRIALS E-Z

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
British Industrials	100	+1.5	5.0	5.0%

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
British Hotels	100	+1.5	5.0	5.0%

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
British Industrials	100	+1.5	5.0	5.0%

INDUSTRIALS E-Z

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
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INDUSTRIALS A-D

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INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
British Industrials	100	+1.5	5.0	5.0%

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THE TIMES

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT ON
PENSIONS/1

A taxing time for people's future wealth

For the first time in anyone's memory pensions are a sexy subject. Although the general opinion of the Government's proposals on personal pensions is that they have, once again, made a dog's dinner of things. In terms of making the average employee aware of how much of his cash is tied up in a pension scheme, the exercise has to be judged a resounding success.

The nation's greed has been aroused and many people believe, rightly or wrongly, that personal pensions are the way to get their hands on the money locked up in occupational pension schemes.

Though it is a major achievement to have got the general public interested in a subject which has hitherto produced terminal boredom there is no ignoring the fact that the whole pension scene is an absolute mess.

Since the DHSS apparently does not talk to the Inland Revenue or Superannuation Funds Office, the fundamental problem associated with personal portable pensions remains, not only unresolved, but even more of a muddle than it was before.

The Government's objectives are three-fold. First, to offload some of the expense of providing for people in retirement; second, to encourage job mobility by making it easier for people to take their pensions with them when they change employment; and third, to give working people a real interest in what is probably their biggest investment.

But instead of starting from scratch and deciding how best to achieve these objectives, officials at the

Department of Health and Social Security were asked to look at the ways of cutting the cost of Serps (the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme) and devise a scheme which would encourage people to take out personal pension plans, with no reference to the overall tax structure of pensions — fundamental to solving the pensions conundrum.

Until the Government tackles the tax problems, there can be no real portability of pensions. The new proposals leave a host of unanswered questions which must be dealt with.

At the moment an employer can push as much cash as he likes into an

6 The nation's greed has been aroused and many believe personal pensions are the way to get their hands on locked-up money.

occupational pension scheme and obtain tax relief on these contributions, because the limitation is on the amount of eventual pension paid to members at retirement age.

With a personal pension policy the restrictions are on tax relief on contributions to the plan — and the pension can be any amount or proportion of previous earnings. How then can there be any harmony between the two?

Though the new proposals give limited rights to job changers in terms of up-rating of deferred pension benefits, and the right to

contract out of the State scheme, they do not tackle some of the fundamental problems associated with pensions.

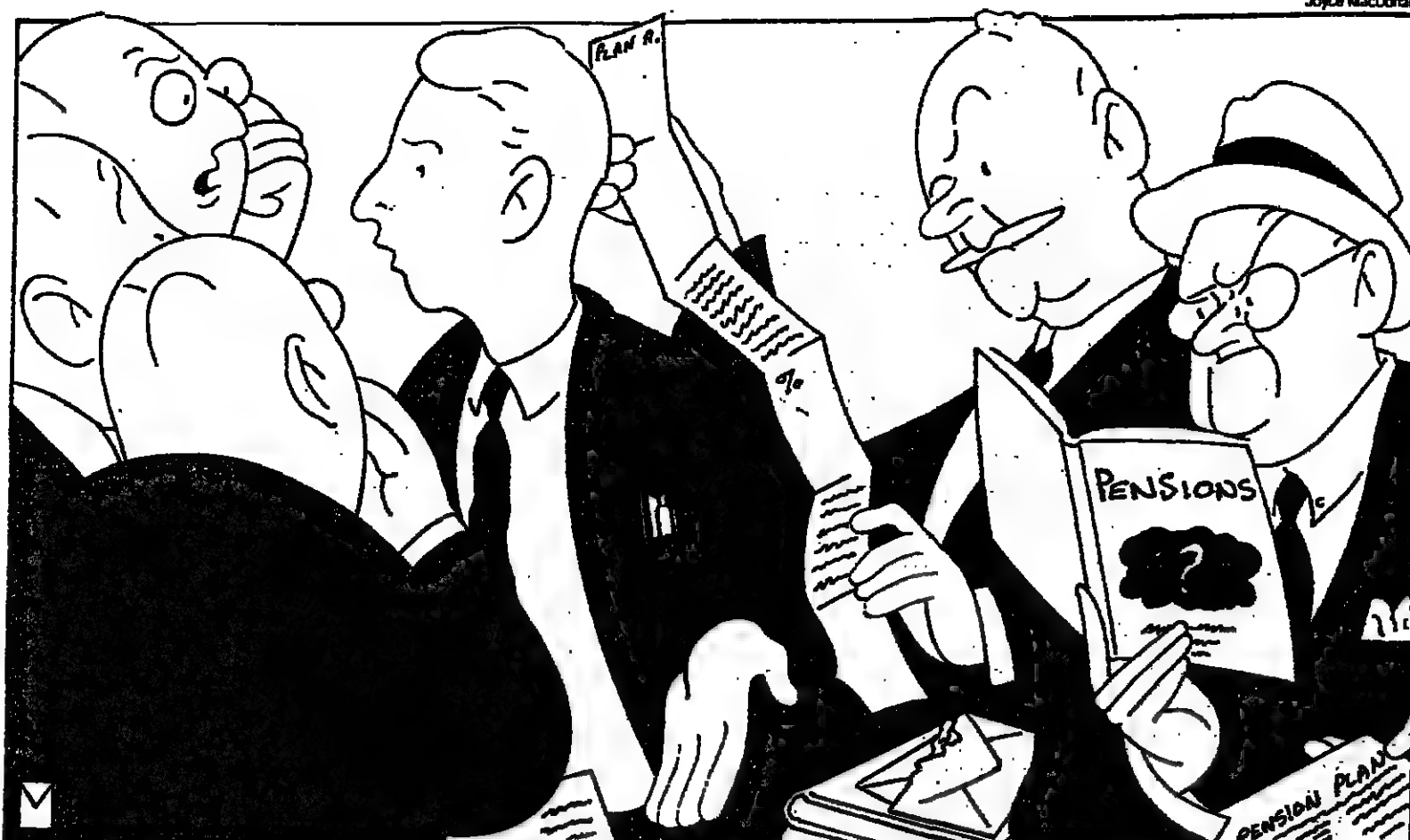
The vast majority of workers have inadequate pensions and need to make extra provision for their retirement. Yet nothing has been done to enable those who are in an inadequate occupational scheme, or those job changers who have much reduced pensions, to obtain tax relief on contributions to a top-up personal pension.

The Government would say its proposals are designed to encourage people to make extra voluntary contributions to their existing occupational pension scheme. But nothing has been done to give the employee any real freedom of choice.

If his company has an AVC scheme (Additional Voluntary Contributions) which is part of the main pension scheme, and that scheme is under-funded, then it is madness to encourage anyone to pay extra contributions into such a scheme, since it will inevitably be poor value for money.

The employee could get a better deal elsewhere — except that he can't because the new pension regulations have done nothing to solve this problem. As a member of an occupational scheme — however bad — he still cannot get tax relief on contributions to a personal pension plan.

Similarly, it's all very well ruling that deferred pension benefits, from January 1986, must be up-rated by the lesser of 3 per cent a year, or the rate of inflation.



Minister in charge Norman Fowler, who proposed the abolition of Serps, then retreated in the face of wholesale criticism and produced a compromise solution

The snag about switching jobs

One of the most common areas of dissatisfaction among employees who have an occupational pension scheme is what happens to their accumulation pension rights if they switch jobs. Early leavers, as they are known, often complain that the options available to them when they change jobs are too narrow, and that the value of their accrued rights is far less than they had expected.

Certainly recent legislation has to an extent addressed both of these grievances. The Social Security Act 1985, which largely came into force on January 1 this year, improved the available choices for early leavers as well as laying down certain rules which, while not necessarily going to produce the valuation that the early leaver would want or expect, will nevertheless ensure that some sort of fair valuation is arrived at.

Under the old law an employee must have worked at least five years for a company and be at least 26 years old before becoming entitled to a deferred or frozen pension. In other words, unless both these requirements had been satisfied, an employee did not have the right to keep his or her pension in the company's scheme when moving to another job.

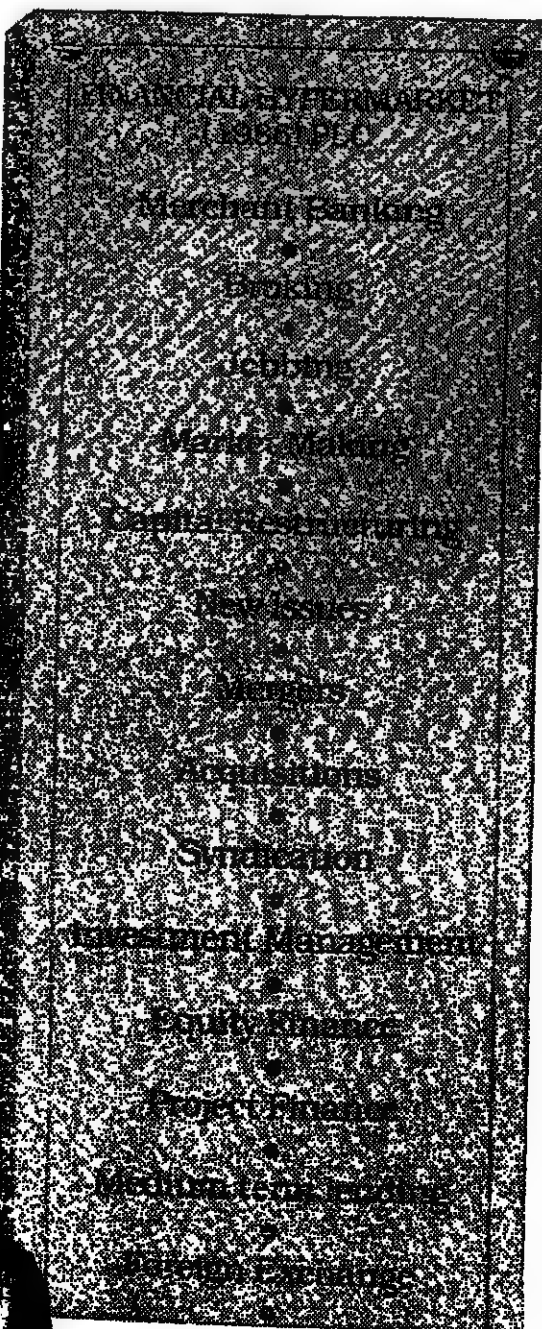
The new act changes the position slightly in that the age requirement is scrapped, leaving five years pensionable service as the sole qualifying condition for a deferred or frozen pension.

Another improvement introduced by the Social Security Act 1985 is to require companies to increase the value of deferred pensions annually. While many companies had

Continued on page 22

INSIDE: The Serps U-turn, page 22 • Getting the best advice, page 23 • Making sure of your rights, page 23

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PENSIONS/2

FOCUS

A sensible compromise on the Serps U-turn

The Government tried last year to put through one of the most radical changes it has proposed since Mrs Thatcher came to office. It attempted to get agreement for plans to overturn the state pensions system established in the 1970s, a system which affects virtually the whole population. And it failed.

"The compromise now achieved produces a sensibly balanced pensions framework, keeping much in the state sector and transferring those who can afford it to the private sector," says Tony Duggan of Save & Prosper, the unit-linked life and pensions group.

The Social Security Bill embodying this compromise is now on its way through Parliament and the new pensions system will come into force in 1988.

What Norman Fowler, the Social Security Secretary, first proposed was the total abolition of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (Serps) and the transfer of all pensions to the private sector over a period of years.

Serps now gives an inflation-proof pension related to final salary on top of the basic state pension. This was a mixture of pragmatic planning and ideology.

On one hand Mr Fowler was looking ahead into the next century and seeing that Serps would become prohibitively expensive — costing the Government about £25 billion a year by 2030. On the other hand, the Government believes that if individuals have to administer and invest their own pensions the property owning, capitalist minded democracy so dear to Tory hearts will receive an enormous boost.

The plan to abolish Serps foundered on a reef of criticism which the Government had clearly not expected. Trade unions objected believing their members would be worse off, while employers objected believing the new system would cost them much more.

Most surprising of all, the pensions industry itself objected. Far from seeing the transfer of pensions to the private

sector as a gift, life companies saw enormous complications and expenses in implementation and correctly objected that many of the lower paid would be big losers.

Mr Fowler took the sensible course and retreated. The compromise now achieved still makes savings in the future cost of Serps — by about the year 2030 it will be costing roughly £13 billion a year. It will still transfer many people's pensions to the private sector but, in theory, at

Widows will be badly hit

least, for only those who can afford it.

The new system will be phased in over 10 years, with a promise from Mr Fowler that "the changes will not affect anyone retiring this century, nor anyone widowed this century". The fundamental change is that the new slimline Serps will be based on 20 per cent of average earnings over a lifetime rather than 25 per cent averaged over the



best 20 years. Clearly the new system will pay less for most people.

Particularly badly hit will be widows who will no longer receive the whole of their spouses pension. Temporary workers, such as married women, who leave employment for a time and then rejoin it, will also suffer.

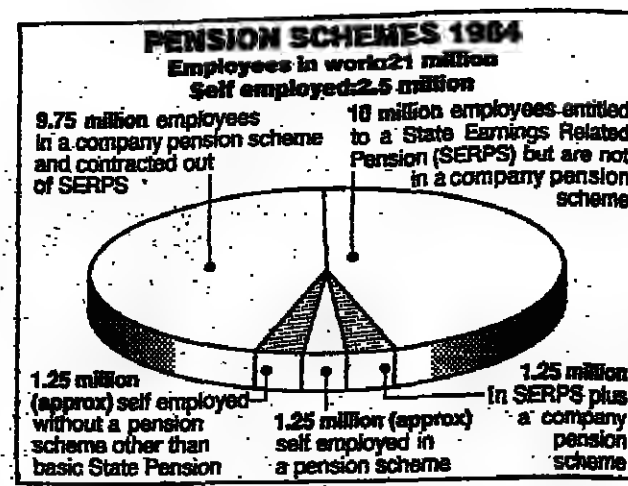
The reason for the relief within the pensions industry when Mr Fowler modified his plans was partly that it stands far more chance than the first idea of achieving political consensus, thus avoiding further tampering.

But it was also because the industry knew it could not provide economical pension schemes to lower paid people

who could only make small monthly contributions. Only the Government can operate on a big enough scale to cut administration costs enough to give lower paid contributors value for money.

The other plank of Mr Fowler's pensions platform is the introduction of personal portable pensions that will cater mainly to the better paid.

People can now opt out of Serps, but usually only to join a "contracted out" company scheme. Under the new rules contracting-out schemes will get a rebate of 2 per cent of earnings, paid in by the Government for the first five years, as an incentive. The minimum contribution to company schemes, split be-



To avoid confusion in administering these schemes, the new system allows for a central pensions clearing house paid for and run by the Department of Health and Social Security which will receive the contributions of the individual and employer and pass them on to the relevant pension company.

The individual will be able to invest the contributions in a wide range of vehicles, from ordinary bank accounts to stocks and shares. New laws are being introduced to prevent him being dishonestly advised on his investments.

New laws are also being introduced to allow more institutions to offer pension schemes, such as unit trust

companies, building societies and banks. A similar system in the US was introduced in 1980 which indicates the way people in Britain may behave with personal pensions.

But recently, as the market has begun to mature, pension contributions have begun to be invested in more sophisticated and risky investments.

If that is the pattern followed in Britain for the rest of this century Mr Fowler will have gone further than just changing the pensions system. He will have done more to encourage a property and share owning society than the whole of the Government's privatization policy is ever likely to do.

Richard Thomson

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Improvements for early leavers

Continued from page 20

already adopted a policy of voluntarily increased deferred pensions, many others simply left them untouched and flat.

Moreover, according to a survey of the company pension schemes by *Money Magazine* before the new law came into force, companies such as British Home Stores, Marks & Spencer and General Accident were among those who appeared to adopt the practice of not topping up deferred pensions.

There are arguments on both sides. It could be said that companies should look after the interests of employees who have shown long-standing loyalty to the company in terms of long service, and that to increase deferred pensions would be at the expense of such people and to the benefit of those early leavers, who necessarily had not shown the same loyalty.

Conversely, this might quite simply not be relevant since the existing members may be receiving full benefits, so that any savings from not increasing deferred pensions is simply increasing a surplus on the fund. Moreover, the reality of working life is that most people do not stay exclusively working for one employer. And this reality should, therefore, be recognized in terms of improving the position of early leavers.

Hence the act provides for a statutory increase for deferred pensions of 5 per cent a year or the level of increase in the retail price index, whichever works out lower. So deferred pensions can no longer be allowed to remain static. But remember that the obligation to increase a deferred pension only applies to the pension benefits that an employee has accumulated since January 1, 1985.

If you have a money purchase pension scheme rather than a final pay one, the new law — the Social Security Act 1985 — will also apply to you. In this instance it stipulates that any preserved or deferred pension in a money purchase scheme must receive the same treatment as that handed out to active pensions remaining within the scheme.

Another change by the new legislation is the requirement from the beginning of this year for all company pension schemes to offer early leavers a transfer pension as an alternative to leaving the pension rights where they are.

In practice many companies — particularly the larger ones — already offered the transfer payment facility. The paradox, perhaps, is that the new law does not stipulate that the company to which the early leaver is moving must accept the transfer payment into its scheme to buy rights therein. Again, in practice, most companies are prepared to accept such a payment.

The right to have a "transfer value" as it is known also extends to using it to purchase a "lump sum" or "section 32 policy", generally speaking a special pension plan.

Either way there are provisions in the new legislation concerning the calculation of transfer values, whether used for purchasing rights in another scheme or a separate pension policy.

As for section 32 policies, these vary considerably and at the same time offer the standard range of with-profits, unit-linked, deposit administration and non-profits choices. The transfer value is invested in the form of a single lump sum.

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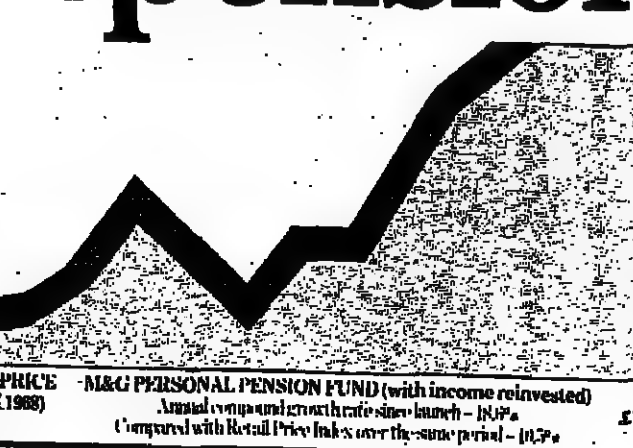
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PENSIONS/3

Don't leave it too late for the best results

Most employees forget about pensions until they are near retirement age. As a result most are ignorant of their rights. A few enlightened companies go out of their way to make up for this deficiency by ensuring that their pension schemes make regular reports to members, but they are the exception.

Last year's Social Security Act introduced general requirements on providing information to pension scheme members but the details were left to regulations which have yet to be drawn up. It is already clear, however, that

Difficulty in giving details

they will require huge changes in practice to be made.

The regulations are likely to be based on recommendations made in a consultative paper published as long ago as February 1984. This suggested that schemes should make available annual reports which say whether the scheme is funded or not and which contains a set of audited accounts, an auditor's report and a summary description of the scheme's assets. In addition it recommended that the report include a statement on borrowings, the names of the investment managers and an actuarial statement, renewed every three years, on the level of funding.

Bacon & Woodrow, the consulting actuary, say the actuarial statement should be divided in two parts dealing separately with benefits secured to date and the on-going position. It argues that there is considerable difficulty about giving details of the methods

and assumptions employed in arriving at the actuarial statements as there are so many different approaches in current use. It even says the information could be confusing to most readers of accounts.

The consultative paper suggested that trustees and employees would be responsible for bringing the report and accounts to the attention of members and that displaying it on a noticeboard would be sufficient for the purpose.

The reports would also have to be sent to representatives of recognized trade unions. The original plan for setting up a pension reports registry has been dropped, though the decision will be reviewed in three years' time.

Other information which might be required includes a record of past increases in pensions, details on how transfer values are worked out, information on the trustees and individual benefit statements. A recent survey has

Good information in short supply

found that these requirements would necessitate a drastic improvement in the level of information supplied. Of the 414 schemes taking part, 39 per cent did not publish an annual report for members, 78 per cent did not provide one for early leavers and 61 per cent did not supply the information to people who have already retired.

Clare Dobie

Greater Security for the Rights and Expectations of Members of Occupational Pension Schemes.
Company Pension Schemes Survey, PPL, BIM.

Where to go to get the advice that matters



OPAS has been operational for more than two years and its running costs are about £35,000 a year.

It has 150 occupational pension scheme advisors spread throughout the country, all of whom work on a voluntary basis and generally have a long-standing connection with the pensions industry. So they will often be pension fund managers, retired or still working, or members of the Institute of Actuaries.

"A lot of people approach us through the local Citizens Advice Bureau," says Mr Terry Brand, deputy chairman of OPAS. The chairman is Margaret Granger OBE.

"If people have not been satisfied after an approach to the scheme authority they can approach OPAS. A considerable number of enquiries we receive can be answered immediately. If not then the enquiry or approach will be dealt with as a case," says Mr Brand.

But this does not mean that OPAS will engage in protracted negotiations on your behalf. "We are not the Ombudsman," says Mr Brand. "What we do is advise or put forward our views as to what people's rights are under the terms of the rules of the particular scheme and under the law of trusts."

"If we have permission from the person who has approached us we will talk to the employer and express our views. Then we leave it to the parties to finalize matters. Sometimes we get joint approaches from an employer and employee but this does not happen often."

One of the unfortunate aspects of the work that OPAS does is the number of times it witnesses what Mr Brand calls "tragedies".

"We often have to tell people, 'sorry but you have a miserable pension', and there have been the most ghastly cases of fraud where people

have lost all the pension they were expecting," he says.

On the whole, he says, most company pension schemes are well run, although there are a number on the fringe where employees can get a rough ride.

Then there are cases where people just cannot understand why their pension is so low compared to those of contemporaries in similar jobs.

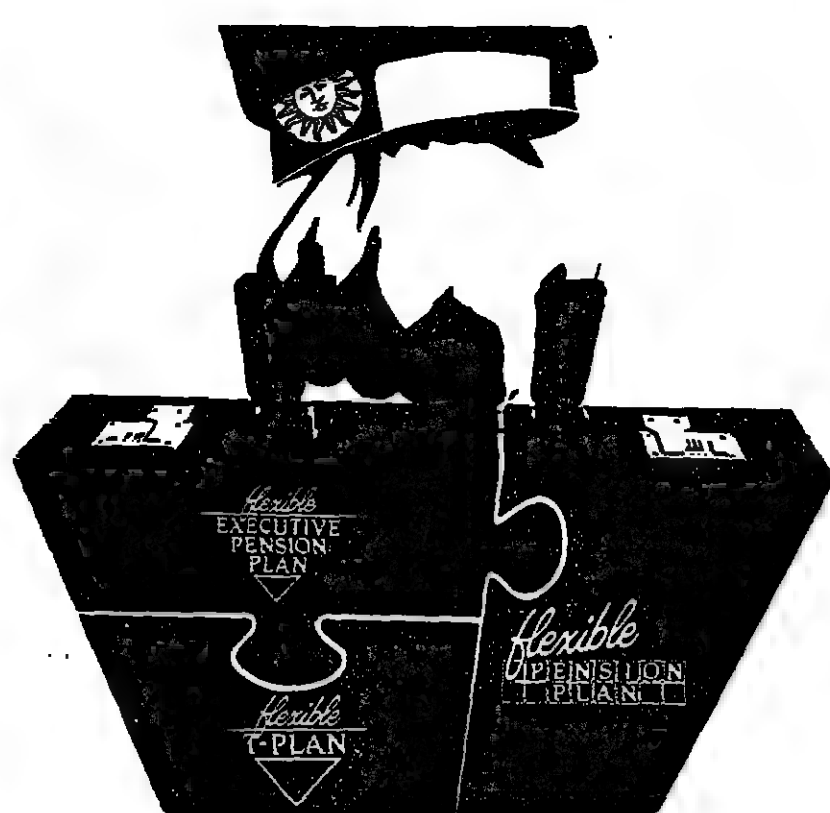
Another organization that provides a measure of assistance is the Company Pensions Information Centre, which was set up by a consortium of life offices 11 years ago.

"We give information but not advice," says David Barrett, information manager at CPIC. "Individual members of the public do come in for advice. We are happy to help them to understand pension schemes generally, but we will not delve into the rules of individual pension schemes. We don't check the figures but we help people to understand the process."

As well as providing information to individuals, CPIC does a lot of public speaking at chambers of commerce, pension conferences, gatherings of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. The booklets it produces also take up a lot of working time.

LL

The Company Pensions Information Centre, 7 Old Park Lane, London W1Y 3LJ.
OPAS, Room 327, Aviation House, 129 Kingsway, London WC2B 6NN.



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HORIZONS

A guide to
career choice

Carve out a furniture future



Furniture-making is fashionable. Consumer interest in design, new technology and an emphasis on woodmanship are combining to open career opportunities. Last year Lord Snowden's son, Lord Linley, opened his own furniture shop and helped to spark a spate of articles on trendy furniture-makers. His own master, John Makepeace, is soon to open a second school.

This spring the New Woodmanship Trust is being launched, and a new BSC furniture-production course is now open at Buckinghamshire College in High Wycombe.

So, join a firm or start your own business: either way the route is surprisingly long. In the latter case, six years of being a student may end with a lucky break at the college diploma show. Even then business skills can be lacking - as Mr Makepeace knows. His private school on a magnificent Dorset estate, insists that pupils market their creations and learn how to cope in the world before the course concludes.

Management and business studies are also central to courses in fine craftsmanship and design at Ryecotewood College, Oxfordshire.

For fellow students Peter Christian and Paul Chamberlain, the end-of-course show at the Royal College of Art launched their firm, called Flux. An elegant lounge had already won a prize and soon found a manufacturer. They are to be found now in a studio in Battersea with trains thundering past and, on view, an assortment of successful creations from a one-piece swivelling table and stool to the original lounge.

The studio was set up in 1985 as both Peter and Paul gained an Enterprise Allowance (worth £40 each for a year). That is just ending, but the future looks promising with a clutch of commissions. How did they begin?

Paul studied design, craft and technology at school and joined the foundation course at Cardiff College of Art before taking a degree in construction and design at Bristol. There he produced some novel wall-hanging chairs, which won an international competition in Belgium. The "lone" Brit beat 400.

At the end of three years at the Royal College (exclusively post-graduate) Paul had been a student for seven years, having earned a few pounds working with Crown Supplies in a

holiday. Grants and bursaries had nearly paid for his education.

Peter, who concentrated on furniture and lighting at Ravensbourne College of Art, took a year out at Sheffield University, working as illustrator and designer in the publications department and won an award for seating. That took him to the Netherlands and Italy, before the Royal College.

The pair intended to set up in partnership to design for mass markets. Despite the long academic course, Peter and Paul felt inexperienced in business and, sensibly, began on a low budget, working at home in 1984.

Are they making a living? Just with much of their revenue going on producing samples on publicity and trade shows.

In the future Flux hopes to have its own shop, but for that the two want another business partner, leaving them to concentrate on design and presentation. Maybe the new Independent Designers Federation will be useful. It

and the Royal College. Brenda Saunders took a year out and worked in Heals' domestic furniture department.

She says: "I learnt what people want to buy - at college you have a blinkered sense of commercialism. Being a high-flier, she gained a first at Kingston and 'really blossomed at the RCA where I developed my own fabrics for my furniture'."

She finished there 10 years ago and went to Italy on a British Council Scholarship to study upholstery in Milan, before setting up business with Peter Bussan, a fellow-RCA student of environmental design.

These days, in a new studio in Hoxton, east London, Brenda Saunders excels a conference board of successful creations, such as a chair which sold by the score and - going into production this month - a space-saver bed for Sleepzeez. Made of steel aluminium, with plastic feet and wooden slats, it is intended for home and for contract use, as in hotels.

She has benefited directly from government cash invested in the Design Council for Industry, which has enabled manufacturers to experiment with new products.

Brenda is grateful that the Government is backing design and is enjoying the chance to do her own thing or, rather, with Peter Bussan, to produce commercially viable domestic furniture, from a work-station with a bed on top and cupboard to the side (ideal for the bedsit) to a larger desk with VDU on a swivel.

Now the Saunders partnership is branching out, taking on an architect and graphic artists.

Where should you begin in 1986? Choosing a relevant course is the first priority. Settings range from universities, polytechnics and other colleges of further education to manufacturers' training schools, with courses homing in on areas from craft to industrial design.

The London College of Furniture, which is vocally based, having good contacts with industry, takes students from 16 to 60 full-time or part-time.

Career advice is available from the British Furniture Manufacturers' Federation, the Design Council, colleges and private schools. Send SAE, preferably self-sealing, for a list to Special Projects (furniture), The Times, 1, Pennington Street, Wapping, London E1.

Ann Hills looks at
new interest in an
old skill and how
to plan for success

aims to help members in building links with industry and manufacturers, in marketing and sales.

"Are you sitting comfortably?" is a question Kanwal Sharma is asking pupils at Richard Cloudeley special school near the Barbican, where his seating system is being piloted. That uses an assessment rig with moveable parts to enable an ergonomically suitable prescription to be devised for each youngster according to their size and disability. The computerized findings are then used to adapt component seating for a comfortable fit.

The Richard Cloudeley chair is Kanwal's first substantial impact in furniture design. Having a real brief is a vital spur, says Mr Sharma. "Too often students are asked to design for the distant future," he adds.

Mr Sharma is optimistic. But after six years of academic education he regrets the lack of solid links with industry and the neglect of basic business-management skills.

Between Kingston College of Art

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY
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Webster University of St. Louis, Missouri has established highly successful branches in Geneva, Vienna and London. They offer American B.A., M.A., and M.B.A. degrees in management, computer studies, international relations and related fields, through daytime and evening courses for working and fulltime students of all nationalities.

Classes will start at the new Webster branch in London on October 27, 1986 and Webster is now recruiting to head this branch.

DIRECTOR, LONDON

The ideal candidate will have a doctorate, will be a highly-motivated self-starter who wishes to build into a major institution a branch of an American university abroad, has experience in an American university and experience in Britain, and is or has been a manager.

A highly-competitive compensation package will be offered to the successful candidate. Start date is about September 1986.

Short resumes should be sent (no calls) before March 15, 1986 to both:

Deans Duggan and George
Webster University
470 East Lockwood
St. Louis, Missouri 63119

Dr. Peet
Webster University
37 Avenue de Bâle
1201 Geneva, Switzerland

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UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING
CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

Senior Research Fellow

Applications are invited from well qualified social science graduates with substantial experience of applied social research. The person appointed will play a major role in planning, managing and conducting research into the effectiveness of social work. The Centre is funded jointly by the Economic & Social Research Council and the University of Stirling. The Centre has recently taken up the Directorship of the Centre.

The person appointed, who will be expected from time to time to deputise for the Director, will hold a Senior Lectureship in the University (salary scale £14,700 - £21,841.33) and an appropriately experienced applicant may be offered a Readership (salary scale £15,817 - £24,941.33) scales subject to review. The contract will be for five years and may be renewable for a further fixed period.

Further particulars can be obtained from the University Secretary University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA, Scotland. Informal enquiries may be made to Professor Juliet Cheetham, Director, Social Work Research Centre, University of Stirling, Stirling: Tel: 0786 73171. Ext. 2134. Please quote reference (7).

Closing date for applications 1 April 1986.

NUFFIELD COLLEGE
Oxford OX1 1NF

POLITICS or SOCIOLOGY

The College intends to proceed to the election of an Official Fellow in Politics or Sociology tenable from 1 October 1986, or a later date to be arranged. Applications are invited from men and women whose interests lie within these subjects. The College does not define them narrowly, but is particularly interested in candidates able to link both. Official Fellows engage in research and supervise graduate students. Particulars from the Warden, to whom applications, stating qualifications, research interests, and three referees should be sent by 15 March 1986.

UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Registrar's Office

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Applications are invited for an appointment as an Assistant Registrar in the Registrar's Office. The successful candidate will be responsible for a range of clerical and administrative duties in connection with the University's academic and administrative work.

Salary will be in the appropriate band in the University's pay scale. The successful candidate will be expected to work full-time, Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm.

Further particulars may be obtained from the University Secretary, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU. Please quote reference (8).

Closing date for applications 14th March 1986.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
SHEFFIELD

DEPARTMENT OF CONTROL ENGINEERING

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

As part of the Engineering and Technology Programme, the UGC has supported a major expansion of the Department of Control Engineering and the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering at the University of Sheffield. An additional 60 undergraduate places are available from 1986 on the B.Sc. degree course in Information and Control Engineering which is jointly administered by the two Departments.

Substantial resources will be available to support this development: appropriate levels of additional staffing will be provided together with funds for new equipment. The University has recently acquired further modern accommodation for use by the departments concerned and by the University's newly established Institute for Information Technology in addition, funds in excess of £1 million have been allocated by the UGC for a new building.

This development will confirm the position of Sheffield University as one of the leading centres for teaching and research in Information Engineering. The Department of Control Engineering is headed by Department Professor H. Nicholson who has particular expertise in signal and image processing, microprocessor applications and robotics. Staff in the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering (Head of Department Professor F. A. Benson) are prominent in many fields of research including the design of new electronic systems using computers, semiconductor innovation, communication system displays, real time image processing, microprocessor applications and microwave sensors.

NEW LECTURESHIPS

Applications are invited for four posts of Lecturer available from August 1986. Suitable areas of expertise include:

Department of Control Engineering

signal processing, automatic control, real-time systems, expert systems, automatic manufacturing technology

Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering

digital signal processing, circuit and architecture design using VLSI techniques, real time image processing, techniques for sensing, instrumentation, actuation and control

Applications should be able to contribute to existing teaching and research activities in these areas, and will also be encouraged to develop their own areas of interest. Experience in industrial engineering or in academic research is essential. Initial salaries will be at grades 1 and 12 on the non-direct lecturers scale (£7,620 - £13,140 under revised grading system, according to experience). Internal enquiries should be addressed in the first instance to Dr. J. Taylor, Assistant Registrar, Faculty of Engineering and Materials (1st Floor, 76555 ex. 5361). Further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Department (Academic Staffing), University of Sheffield, S10 2TN to whom applications (6 copies) including the names of three referees, should be referred by Monday 17 March 1986. Please quote reference number R377/A.

Further particulars may be obtained from the University Secretary, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN. Please quote reference (8).

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See Ambassadors Theatre
RUN FOR YOUR WIFE
See Criterion Theatre
WHEN WE ARE MARRIED
See Whitehall Theatre
MONTH OF SUNDAYS
See Electric Theatre
SHAKESPEARE THEATRE,
HOME OF THE THEATRE
OF COMEDY COMPANY
See separate entry

YOUNG VIC STUDIO 928 6363
Live Productions 22 Exit 8 pm
LIVE PRODUCTIONS IN THE
RING THE ANTELOPE A new
adventure play

YOUNG VIC STUDIO 928 6363
Exit 8 pm 1st Seat
LIVE PRODUCTIONS
TRAVELLING PRODUCTION
Dances

1. *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud.

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